

EEC unveils scheme to cut British payments

From Michael Hornsby, Luxembourg, June 24

A scheme under which other member states would compensate Britain for many years ahead for the huge losses it makes on financing the EEC Common Agricultural Policy was proposed here today by the European Commission after a year of difficult deliberations.

Announcing the proposal at a press conference, Mr Gaston Thorn, the President of the Commission, said that Britain was the only country faced by a genuinely unfair budgetary situation. Special corrections would be needed until that situation changed.

The scheme is no more than a blueprint so far, and virtually everything is left to play for in the hard-biting negotiations that will get under way between EEC member states in the second half of the year. The proposals will come up for preliminary discussion when the EEC heads of government meet here next week.

The Commission's long-awaited 25-page document gives no precise indication of the level of reimbursement which Britain could reasonably expect, nor any guarantee that it would even be as great as what Britain receives under the temporary settlement agreed last May, which expires at the end of next year.

Because of its overall wealth and the fact that it got back four fifths of what it paid towards the financing of the agricultural policy, West Germany was in a quite different situation from Britain's, Mr Thorn declared.

The Commission President emphasized that the proposal should be seen in the context of related recommendations for long-term reforms of the agricultural policy, which at present consumes more than 60 per cent of the total budget, and other measures to boost development of the EEC's poorer regions and create new jobs.

Europe, he said, was facing its worst crisis in 30 years, and unless the EEC renewed itself to face these challenges it might not survive.

The Commission would be coming forward with detailed proposals for agricultural reform later in the year, and these would be aimed at three main objectives.

First, the EEC's guaranteed farm prices should gradually be made competitive with lower

world prices. Secondly, price support should be limited to quantities of production that bore some relation to market demand. And member states should individually bear part of the cost of financing direct income aids for the poorest farmers.

These proposals will be welcome in Britain as going very much in the right direction. But there will be stiff resistance from other member states, who will see them as an attack on the fundamental principles of the agricultural policy.

In particular, there will be alarm over the proposal for transferring part of the cost of supporting farmers from the collectively financed EEC budget to national exchequers.

Compensation is considered necessary by the Commission because of Britain's relatively small, but efficient, agricultural sector, paralleled in no other member state. The Commission accepts that reform of the agricultural policy, coupled with the development of other policies of more financial benefit to Britain, cannot hope to change the position for a number of years.

Hence the need, in the Commission's words, for a special budgetary compensation mechanism for a limited period but long enough for the effects of the new guidelines (on agriculture and regional and social policy) to be proposed to take effect. According to Mr Christopher Tugendhat, the Budget Commissioner, the mechanism could be needed for five to 10 years.

Compensation would be calculated annually by comparing the gap between Britain's percentage share of total expenditure on agriculture and its share of the EEC's gross national product (GNP), which at present is about 18 per cent.

Britain would then be paid a sum of money to be spent on approved development projects, so as to bring its share of agricultural expenditure closer to its percentage share of the EEC's GNP.

The Commission envisages that other member states should pay back a percentage of their receipts, calculated according to an accepted indicator of national wealth.

Leading article, page 17

Thatcher appoints new spending 'watchdog'

By Peter Hennessy

Mrs Margaret Thatcher will announce today the appointment of Mr Gordon Downey as a new Comptroller and Auditor General to watch over parliament's spending.

Mr Downey, a deputy secretary in the Treasury, was number two in the Central Policy Review Staff, the Cabinet's "think tank", until May.

For the first time in the 115-year history of the office, the chairman of the Commons Public Accounts Committee, which the Comptroller reports, had a say in the appointment.

The chairman, Mr Joel Barnett, Labour MP for Hereford and Royston, rejected Mrs Thatcher's first candidate, Sir Anthony Rawlinson, Second Permanent Secretary in charge of the Treasury's Public Services Section.

As no willing outsider could be found, the search turned inside Whitehall. Mr Downey and Mr Barnett worked closely together during Mr Barnett's period as Chief Secretary.

Between 1976 and 1978, Mr Downey was deputy secretary responsible for the Treasury's general expenditure divisions.

Some hard lessons had been learned in the private sector, but Mr Prior did not believe that the message was yet understood by the public sector.

Thatcher calls Foot speech disgraceful

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

Mrs Margaret Thatcher last night totally routed Mr Michael Foot, leader of the Labour Party, in an emotion-packed ending to a debate on the latest unemployment figures which now appear to be rising inexorably towards three million.

In so doing, the Prime Minister will have left the nation in no doubt that there is to be no change in government policy, that the fight against inflation will remain the government's first priority and that the primary aim is still lower pay settlements.

The debate ended in uproar with Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, so incensed at the behaviour of Labour MPs as they shouted down the Prime Minister, that he appeared to be almost beside himself with rage. Furiously he yelled across the Chamber at the Labour front bench: "Perhaps fortunately, all that could be made of was a much repeated 'disgraceful'."

Mr Foot totally misjudged the mood of the House. If he had been doing a comedy turn in a music hall, his performance would have brought the House down. But he was a disaster. As Mrs Thatcher told him as she opened her winding up speech—he had wanted to secure a debate on unemployment and, having got it, reduced it to a matter of minutes. He had dealt with unemployment as he dealt with all other matters, said the Prime Minister, with his typical levity.

"I have never heard a more disgraceful speech. He did not put forward a single aspect of policy," she said.

Indeed, seldom can an Opposition attack on such a serious matter have been so short of alternative suggestions from the senior spokesmen of the party. Both Mr Eric Varley, Opposition spokesman on employment, who opened the debate, and Mr Foot, winding up, scarcely mentioned any suggestions for dealing with the unemployment problem.

The Opposition's main motion was defeated by 311 votes to 244—a government majority of 67.

With Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, who opened the debate, firmly stating that the Government did not believe that any general election would be held in the near future, he ended the debate with the effect of reducing unemployment levels and that lower pay settlements were the only way forward.

There were no signs of the much heralded divergence with the majority Cabinet view.

But it was the remarkable confidence that all would come right in the end. There were no clear signs, she told the House, that the worst of the recession was over.

Manufacturing and industrial production in April was broadly at the same level as last December and consumption was comparatively buoyant in the first quarter. Retail sales remained at a high level.

Although she rejected Mr Foot's demand that she should confirm Mr Prior's prediction earlier this week that unemployment would rise to three million, the Prime Minister admitted that the level would inevitably continue to rise for the next few months because of the numbers of school leavers coming on to the register.

A government motion calling for the defeat of inflation as the only means of increasing employment was approved by 306 votes to 248, a government majority of 58.

Earlier, Mr Prior reminded Labour MPs that when their government had refused by £3,500 billion unemployment fell by 150,000.

The Secretary of State went on to drum home the message that the single most important underlying cause of the present troubles was the steep rise in unit labour costs.

Some hard lessons had been learned in the private sector, but Mr Prior did not believe that the message was yet understood by the public sector.

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Bringing concern from America: Mr Bush (left) with M Cheysson in Paris.

Mr Bush uses a side gate to avoid red faces at Elysée

From Ian Murray, Paris, June 24

Mr George Bush, the American Vice-President, was slipped through a side gate of the Elysée Palace just before lunch today, while France's first Communist Ministers for 34 years were leaving by the front door.

The official explanation was that this would avoid a confusing mix up with the photographs which always hang about the Elysée forecourt after Cabinet meetings. Whatever the case, it avoided what would have been an additionally embarrassing moment in what is in some ways already an embarrassing visit.

From the moment he stepped on to the tarmac at Orly airport this morning, Mr Bush made it clear that he was going to be asking for a full explanation from his hosts as to the role and the reason for the four Communists in the new French Government.

He told M Claude Cheysson, Minister for External Relations, who left the Cabinet meeting to greet him, that the appointment of Communists to Govern-

ment had a great significance for President Reagan and the American Government.

Speaking from a prepared script he said that he intended, during his visit, to fully analyse the implications of the move with President Mitterrand and his Government.

He was less than optimistic about the outcome of such an analysis. While recalling the traditional links of friendship and co-operation between the two countries he said that what now had to be worked out was how the two countries might advance their common interests.

Mr Bush said that he hoped it would be possible to have discussions to reinforce the alliance between the two countries, to see better trading co-operation, to seek energy independence and to cover other international topics.

President Mitterrand's luncheon guests at the Elysée included M Cheysson and M Charles Hernu, the Defence

Minister. The Americans were Mr Allen Holmes, Deputy Under-Secretary of State for European Affairs, and Mrs Vyke, the Vice-President's defence adviser.

Afterwards President Mitterrand accompanied Mr Bush to the steps of the Elysée where he told journalists that France was "a faithful and loyal ally of the United States and we had great many things to say to each other about that."

Mr Bush said that France was a sovereign state and the manner in which it chose its Government was a matter for its own citizens and elected representatives. But he recalled the "work" that the presence of Communist Ministers in an ally's Government was causing the American Administration.

Mr Bush is due to leave Paris tomorrow for London and a meeting with Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

Cabinet meets, cartoon, page 8
Leading article, page 17

Reagan takes budget battle to the people

From Nicholas Ashford, San Antonio, June 24

President Reagan, struggling to gain congressional approval for his domestic economic package, today made a direct appeal to Americans to support his campaign for income tax cuts and sweeping reductions in social welfare programmes.

In a speech to the sixty-first annual national convention of the junior chambers of commerce (Jay Cees) here in Texas, the President called for an open show of support for his controversial budget and tax Bill.

Reaffirming his determination to "embark on a national crusade to make America great again", the President said he could not guarantee that his Administration would be able to end what he termed "this terrible cycle of economic distress" unless his complete economic package was approved by Congress.

"If you believe as I do that we must end this cycle, then I suggest that Members of Congress may be interested in hearing from you and a few million of your fellow citizens," he said.

The President's budget proposal, which calls for a cut of about \$36,000m (about £18,000m) in spending in 1982, has already been passed by Congress.

President Reagan's three-year tax cut programme, which he has now signed into law, has been hailed by the Democratic majority in the House of Representatives.

As the President was speaking, the latest Lewis Harris poll showed that the President's popularity rating was falling sharply. The poll showed that while 67 per cent of the President was doing a good job, that figure had fallen from 67 per cent in April to 60 per cent in June. Confidence in his economic programme also fell.

President Reagan's plea for a show of public support for his economic programme was well targeted. In addressing the conservative Jay Cees, he was preaching to the converted. They have already publicly supported his economic package.

More important, San Antonio is situated at the heart of conservative Texas—and it is the southern conservative Democrats in Congress (known irreverently as the "Boll Weevils") whom the President is trying to win in support of his tax cut programme.

Last month enough conservative Democrats rallied to the President's side to give him a comfortable majority for his budget proposal. However, he is having an uphill struggle with his planned tax cut.

Yesterday, for instance, about 20 of the 63 conservative Democrats whom the President had invited to a White House breakfast to lobby in support of his tax programme failed to turn up for their presidentially poached eggs and English muffins.

Reagan fight, page 9
Foreign investment, page 20

Warships suffer in Navy cuts

By Our Defence Correspondent

Eight warships will be phased out of the fleet as a result of the defence review, whose long-awaited conclusions will be announced today by the Secretary of State for Defence.

No existing shipbuilding programme will be cancelled but the £120m Type 22 Broadsword class frigates will not be as fully equipped as was originally planned. Work at Chatham Dockyard is also expected to be reduced.

The eight ships which will be removed from the active fleet will be put into a stand-by squadron.

For nuclear-powered fleet submarines will be taken out of the shipbuilding programme to make way for the ballistic missile boats to carry the next strategic deterrent.

Mr Nott is understood to have rejected a proposal that two divisions should be withdrawn from the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) and rotated through BAOR on a six-monthly basis.

A priority in Mr Nott's review has been the Government's need to find room in the defence budget for the Trident missile system.

Sources last night believed that much of the effect of the cuts will be hidden and that the Navy particularly will be less well-equipped and less well-maintained as a result.

Nott's review, page 4

Dayan says Israel can make bomb

By David Spanier, Diplomatic Correspondent

The claim by President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, that Israel had a nuclear capacity, which up to now had never been publicly admitted, Israel, was confirmed yesterday by Mr Moshe Dayan, the former Israeli Defence Minister.

Israel now has the ability to produce nuclear weapons quickly and would do so if the Arab states acquired atomic bombs of their own, Mr Dayan stated.

The disclosure, reported on Israeli radio, came during an interview with Italian television recorded by Mr Dayan to coincide with next week's general election. It confirms the widely held belief that Israel is a de facto nuclear power.

[According to the Iraqi news agency, which carried an account of the Israeli President's speech he said yesterday: "Any country seeking peace and respecting people, a country that does not want any people to be dependent or persecuted by foreign powers, should help the Arabs, one way or another, to acquire the atomic bomb in order to face the real Israeli atomic bomb. I think that any country in the world that has a positive responsibility towards humanity and peace must say to the Arabs: 'Here, take the bomb and face the Zionist atomic threat so you may prevent the Zionist entity from using the atomic bomb against the Arabs and spare the world the dangers of atomic bombs in war.'"]

Mr Dayan, who is leader of the newly formed Likud party, has now clarified the official position by explaining that if an Arab country did introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East, "we shall also not be too late."

What this means, it is clear from a previous comment by Mr Dayan made last year, is that should Israel be threatened with destruction it would be in a position to warn its enemies that if they attempted to annihilate Israel, they would face extinction themselves.

Israel had never said, as Mr Dayan explained, that it would not use atomic weapons or had no right to employ them—only that Israel would not be the first.

Israel's technological capacity to produce nuclear weapons has never been in doubt. It is also clear that with its Eagle 215, Phantom F4 and Mirage 115, as well as its own Kfir fighter aircraft, Israel has ample capacity to deliver atomic bombs to any target in the region.

The general assumption in the West by informed analysts is that Israel has sufficient fissionable material to make about 20 bombs.

One key point about Israel's nuclear programme is that it appears to be entirely independent of any outside assistance. In the early days, the French Government, as is well known, helped the Israelis to get started.

But Israeli technical ability and ingenuity succeeded, so it is generally assumed, in making the West's self-sufficiency. This includes the capacity to produce adequate supplies of enriched uranium or plutonium.

The need to find new sources of energy for a country like Israel without oil resources was, of course, obvious. But the military significance of the project was clearly an important factor.

There is no evidence that Israel can enrich its uranium derived from phosphates to weapons grade material, but again the assumption is that it can produce plutonium at its nuclear plant at Dimona.

The dilemma for the Israeli authorities is, perhaps, that they cannot opt for both an energy programme and a military capability.

Kidnap girl saved at ransom rendezvous

By Stewart Tandler and Robin Young

The daughter of a retired Saudi Arabian general was freed by Scotland Yard detectives yesterday after being kidnapped and held for a ransom of £150,000.

Reem al-Harithi, aged 12, was rescued as she arrived at a pre-arranged meeting spot in north London to be exchanged for the money. The meeting came after almost two days of telephone negotiations conducted by the police operating with the aid of a news media blackout on the case.

Last night officers from the anti-terrorist squad were interviewing two men at Paddington police station. The girl, who cried when the kidnappers allowed her to talk to her parents, was reunited with them.

She is the daughter of General Mashour al-Harithi, who was military attaché at the Saudi Arabian embassy in London until he retired 10 years ago. A wealthy man of 55, the general and his family live in South Lodge, an expensive block of flats in Knightsbridge, west London.

The girl disappeared shortly after she left the family home on Tuesday morning in a car on her way to Glendower School in South Kensington. She was due to arrive at the private school at 9 am.

The child, the driver and the grey Bertram family car, vanished, and shortly after 9 am the family received the first of more than a dozen telephone calls demanding money.

The calls made by a man with a London accent stretched through Tuesday and into yesterday. No clear threats were made but the family was told in effect: "You love your daughter. Pay the ransom."

Scotland Yard was called in at 10 am on Tuesday and began Operation South Lodge. They believe that the kidnappers never realized they had been involved. General al-Harithi had been told not to alert them.

On Tuesday afternoon reporters were told of the case in confidence and agreed not to publish any report until the girl was safe. Police have used similar agreements in the past to safeguard kidnap victims.

Continued on back page, col 7

Prince hopes police will long stay unarmed

The Prince of Wales said he hoped Britain would long have a police force that was not armed and went about its duty

in such a splendid and friendly way. "Having been to other countries, I don't think we do too badly," he said. Page 4

Spanish officers questioned

Three senior Spanish Army officers have been questioned about their alleged roles in a possible military conspiracy. The three, two colonels and a major, allegedly took part in meetings aiming to alter Spain's political course. Page 10

Employers reject closed shop curb

In evidence to the government review of labour law policy the Engineering Employers Federation rejects hard-line proposals or new restrictions on the closed shop, opting instead for practical reforms to discourage strikes and outlaw union-only about contracts. Page 2

Iran presidency

The Iranian presidential election will be held on July 24 and Mr Rajai, the Prime Minister, is already the clear favourite to take over from Mr Bani-Sadr, the fugitive former President. Page 8

American who mocked umpire

John McEnroe's doubles partner, Peter Fleming, was penalized a point for mocking the umpire during his match against Tim Gullikson at Wimbledon. The day's play was interrupted by rain and finally abandoned at 7 pm. Page 12

Authors disown schools report

Five authors of a report on multicultural education have disassociated themselves from it, alleging that chapters have been omitted, including passages on the attitude of white pupils, one of whom is quoted as writing: "Black people should be thrown out." Page 4

Chloride losses

Chloride Group, the world's leading battery manufacturer, shocked the market with news of a £17.3m rights issue while announcing losses of £13.5m, described by the chairman as "appallingly bad." Page 19

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Debrett's new rules on etiquette and manners

How to accommodate those unmarried guests

By Alan Hamilton

Important amendments to the standard British code of practice for correct social behaviour are announced today by Debrett's Peerage, the widely accepted arbiter of propriety.

It will henceforth be considered bad form for persons giving country house parties to offer separate bedrooms to pairs of unmarried young guests who are plainly living together; to do otherwise would indicate unwelcome persons.

Disapproval by the hostess, an exception may be made in the presence of elderly relations who might be shocked by the arrangement.

It is more or less officially decreed that attentions paid by a man to an unmarried woman no longer necessarily have marriage as their eventual object, and that more temporary goals may be in view.

Debrett counsels, however, that one partner's misunderstanding of the other's intention remains a major hazard.

Concurrent with such a fundamental shift of emphasis, it is also now decreed that a woman, after the first one of two excursions as the guest of a man, should be prepared to

pay her way if the arrangement is to continue.

Debrett also advises that it is permissible to announce births in one-parent families in the better newspapers, and full instructions have been issued for placing such a notice in The Times.

On more everyday social issues, it is now separate, acceptable for a woman to bow rather than curtsy before a member of the Royal Family; many women find the curtsy difficult to master, particularly when wearing certain tight popular fashions.

At home it is regarded as no longer fashionable, indeed it is thought of as positively rude, to display one's clutch of invitations or garden party ball, shooting and hunting on the mantelpiece; a chance guest could all too easily scan them and discover to which events he or she was not invited.

It is, however, now acceptable when dining at home without benefit of servants, to pass food anti-clockwise, thus ensuring that the dish arrives in the next person's left hand, leaving the right hand free to wield the spoon. Paper napkins are allowed.

The guidelines are contained in Debrett's Etiquette and Modern Manners, a comprehensive workshop manual published today covering all aspects of social conduct, from writing to the Queen to how to hold cutlery (index finger along the handle of the knife).

Mrs Elsie Burch Donald, a native of Tennessee who has lived in Britain for 15 years and is a professional book editor, has produced the guide with the help of seven writers, some of them titled.

"We believe it is the first comprehensive book of etiquette to be issued since the social revolution of the sixties, which swept away much formality and stuffiness," Mrs. Donald said.

One of Mrs Donald's innovations is a chapter on the etiquette of divorce, which ends with the advice that when one partner remarries, the considered him and courteous to invite the former mate to the wedding.

There are several pages of useful advice for hostesses on how to steer dinner-table conversation. Of the four traditional taboos—servants, illness, religion and politics—it is now decreed that conversation about servants is unlikely, but the other three have become fair game. Post-prandial discussion of pornographic films should, however, be avoided.

Despite the new rulings, the book reassures that British society continues on its traditional path untroubled by change. It is still appalling form and a frightful display of ignorance, when invited to ride to hounds, to refer to the "dogs".

Debrett's Etiquette and Modern Manners, edited by Elsie Burch Donald (Debrett's Peerage, 55.95).

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British Rail chiefs attack Labour's cheap fares policy

By Michael Bailey, Transport Correspondent

Labour's policy of cheap public transport fares for London was criticised yesterday by British Rail leaders, including Sir Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail.

Sir Peter said it was "dismaying that the whole public transport scene is being thrown back into the political cauldron after years of trying to get a bipartisan approach."

He indicated that British Rail might require up to £100m a year to compensate for the Greater London Council's cheap fares, but he did not want to join a coordinating council for public transport in London under GLC chairmanship.

The GLC area was only a small part of that covered by British Rail's London and South-east commuter services, Mr Robert Reid, British Rail's chief executive, said. "The GLC's attempt to control the services does not make sense and is totally undemocratic," he said.

Although marketing and tickets were being coordinated with London Transport, overall political coordination should involve 12 county councils as well as the GLC, presumably under the chairmanship of Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Transport. Mr Fowler has already declared strong opposition to the GLC's transport policies.

Sir Peter was speaking at the London launching of British Rail's latest Commuter's Charter which calls for an extra £100m a year to be spent on London and South-east commuter services.

He emphasized that the money was needed for investment, for new rolling stock, station improvements, track and signalling, and general productivity measures, not for artificially cheap fares on the GLC model.

London commuter trains at

present lose £158m on a revenue of £374m and Sir Peter gave a warning that just to continue within present financial limits would cause a steady deterioration in services, with trains becoming less punctual, less frequent, less reliable and more crowded.

A "standing still" policy would mean a rise in the deficit to £180m by 1990, Sir Peter said. But for an extra £45m, the peak South-east England could have a much more comfortable, clean, efficient and reliable service.

The choice was for the Government and community, Sir Peter said. "What British Rail wanted to say in its Commuter's Charter was that we did not have to 'just live in a passive, boring way' with the problems of public transport. We could actually get up and do something about it."

Minister for London post proposed

□ The creation of a new cabinet post, Minister for London, was proposed to the Parliamentary Select Committee on Transport by the British Road Federation yesterday. The Minister would ensure the capital gets its fair share of national resources.

The federation said the GLC had failed as a strategic planning authority for London. Plans after plan had been dashed by a deplorable lack of political will and abrupt changes of direction and policy at County Hall, it said.

Although 13 per cent of the population lived in London, an average of only £5 a head was spent on road construction in 1979-80, compared with £15 in England, £28 in Scotland, and £40 in Wales. A £2,500m programme of spending on trunk roads and local roads was needed to give London an adequate system.

BA wants cheaper European fares

By Arthur Reed, Air Correspondent

The door to cheap European air fares had been wedged shut and bolted by airline resistance, government regulation and general inertia, British Airways said yesterday.

British Airways was not the only British airline aware of the need for change. All sorts of exciting proposals had been put forward, ranging from "brand names suggestive of the back streets of Boulogne" to airy notions about dismantling the entire legal framework in three months flat.

"Real progress depends upon a careful, patient search for ways to overcome the many obstacles," British Airways said in a memorandum to the Commons Industry and Trade Committee.

A paper presented to the committee by Mr John Prothro Thomas, planning director for British Caledonian Airways, said that fares in Europe were higher than in the United States because of higher costs in all airline operations.

Fuel was more expensive, landing, air traffic control and airport security charges were very much higher, because of the European policy of full-cost recovery, in contrast to the United States where many costs were borne by the nation rather than by the industry.

Mr Prothro Thomas said the "scandalously high" London-Brisbane return air fare at £119 could be significantly reduced by British Caledonian if United States standards were applied. Each time the airline flew to Brussels it had to pay £157 in taxes, compared with £40 at Gatwick in the summer and £20 in the winter.

Fuel prices at Brussels were 4 per cent higher than at Gatwick while it cost £212 for the handling of a BAC1-11 aircraft there, compared with £40 at Gatwick in the summer and £20 in the winter.



Midsummer Day in Canterbury: Umbrellas shielding the band of The King's School during an open air concert when Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother visited the Cathedral and school yesterday. She marked the opening of Luxmoore House, the school's new boarding-house, by unveiling a sundial.

Diving rules close fatal loopholes

By Ronald Faux

Only days after the inquiry ended in Aberdeen into the deaths of two North Sea divers, new laws governing off-shore diving operations come into force.

Quite by coincidence the diving regulations from the Health and Safety Executive take effect on July 1 and close many of the legal loopholes and shortcomings revealed in the case of the two Americans who died on the Thistle oil field in August, 1979, when their diving bell was severed from its mother ship.

The inquiry came after a criminal trial last December when Infabco Diving Services was acquitted because the Crown failed to prove that the company employed the two divers. It was "with regret and reluctance" directed the jury to return a verdict of not guilty.

More than 30 divers have been killed in the North Sea since the oil and gas fuels were first exploited and for at least five years the Government has

been working to find a rational answer to the intricate web of legal and operating questions the energy industry created.

The Diving Operations at Work Regulations 1981, in the result, they replace three lots of law that were considered to have been thoroughly overtaken by events in the North Sea. An official of the Health and Safety Executive said yesterday that the new regulations were aimed at the type of difficulties the Infabco case had raised.

"One of the things that they ensure is that a diving operation is illegal unless there is an employer of divers who is the diving contractor," clearly identified, he said.

The regulations insist that a working diver must have a valid certificate of training for the type of work he is attempting to do and a valid certificate of medical fitness to dive. The regulations continue the air diver and bell diver training standards operated by the Manpower Services Commission

and introduced to lesser standards catering for the large number of shallow and inshore divers who were not regulated in the past.

"The law is now clear" in requiring a wide range of equipment to be used in diving operations and covering its regular inspection and testing. This particularly applies to lifting gear used with diving bells, the official added.

The rules also demand that diving bells be fixed with a method of heating and lighting, and of locating the vessel quickly if it should become severed from its mother ship. They lay greater emphasis on the quality of diving supervision.

The official said that if the regulations began in force when the accident on the Thistle field happened, the outcome might have been different.

Since the Infabco case, safety records in the North Sea have improved: for the 1,500 divers working there.

£700,000 divorce award not excessive, judges say

Mrs Pauline Preston, a former model who lived frugally to help her husband build up a £2.5m business, can keep her £700,000 divorce settlement, a record sum awarded by a High Court judge last year.

The Court of Appeal ruled yesterday that the award to Mrs Preston was not excessive and dismissed an appeal by her former husband, Mr Morris Preston, a Channel Islands hotelier.

Mr Justice Ewbank, sitting in the Family Division last November, awarded Mrs Preston a lump sum of £600,000 and ruled that she was entitled to the £100,000 former matrimonial home in South View Road, Pinner Hill, London.

Mr Preston claimed the award was too high and asked for the lump sum to be cut to about £250,000.

Lord Justice Ormrod and Mr Justice Hoggings ruled yesterday that Mrs Preston was entitled to keep the £700,000. Lord Justice Brandon said he

thought a £400,000 lump sum would be sufficient to enable Mrs Preston to match the sumptuous life-style of Mr Preston and his second wife and added that £600,000 was plainly much too high.

Lord Justice Ormrod said he would not have awarded as much as £600,000, but he could not say that the award was "plainly wrong."

Mr and Mrs Preston married a few weeks after they met in 1954. Mrs Preston continued to work as a model while her husband was entirely preoccupied with his business activities and saw little of her or their children.

In 1977, Mr Preston set up home in Jersey and later Mrs Preston divorced him because of his adultery.

Mr Preston had assets of £2.3m, including three hotels in Jersey. He drew a salary of £44,000 a year.

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The post code breakers

By Robin Young

Every year more than 100 million letters and postcards are wrongly or badly addressed. The Post Office manages to deliver four-fifths of them, but it costs £8m a year to do so and provides a full-time occupation for 1,000 decipherers and decoders.

Mr Brian Evans, head of in-land mail, predicted yesterday that holidaymakers will forget to address 100,000 postcards this year.

Once the Post Office managed to deliver an unaddressed card which started "Dear Edna, Nick and family" was signed "Bren and Andria" and was posted in Jersey with other cards for the Bolton area. But the odds remain 99,999 to one against.

Fifteen thousand reels of holidaymaker's snapshots are also destined to end up in the seven returned-letter branches of the Post Office. The branches reckon to have received everything that could possibly be consigned to the post, from legal documents and valuable jewellery to Christmas presents and bulky machinery.

Among the items Mr George Burridge, of the Portsmouth returned-letter branch displayed in London yesterday were a garden fork and spade, an electric wall heater and a metal detector.

Mr Burridge's Portsmouth office receives 14,000 birthday and Christmas cards each year, all intended for other people, and enclosing about £66,000 in cash. If not claimed the money goes into Post Office funds.

Nine cards of the wrongly addressed mail are sent out by businesses, often using outdated mailing lists. Solicitors are said to be among the worst offenders.

"For the most part it is sheer carelessness," Mr Evans said. Human forgetfulness seems incorrigible. One of the postcards on display yesterday was from a holidaymaker to his neighbour saying he had forgotten to turn off the gas and also forgot to write an address.

Legislation expected to put ceiling on rate rises

By Christopher Waxman, Local Government Correspondent

The Cabinet is expected to approve today proposed legislation to control local authority rate increases, a move that will bring closer the confrontation between central and local government that is fast becoming inevitable.

There is little doubt that if the legislation goes ahead, with its emphasis on putting a ceiling on rate increases, it will signal the end of independent local government.

The government plan is to introduce a Bill in the autumn, early in the parliamentary session, and to see it on to the statute book in time to catch the rates to be levied from April, 1982.

The main proposal is a limit, to be decided by the government, on increases in industrial and commercial rates. This is in response to growing protest from the non-domestic sector, supported by the Confederation of British Industry, against ever-increasing rates although they have no vote in local affairs.

Such a move will throw the burden of rate increases further on to domestic ratepayers, and although the Government's long-term aim is to abolish domestic rates, interim measures will have to be taken.

To curb domestic rate increases, which in some cases were above 10 per cent, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, proposes a referendum system, under which a council would be required to seek the electors' approval before a supplementary rate could be levied. In addition he wants to put a ceiling on domestic rate increases.

Mr Heseltine decided to seek

control of rate increases after repeated warnings to local authorities to achieve government targets failed to win the response hoped for. Local government overspend by between £50m and £250m, and this year the first indications show a possible overspending of £800m.

When he called for revised budgets early this month, he threatened to withhold grant unless savings were made.

For years local authority leaders have protested against successive governments' continuing controls over councils, and voiced fears that further controls would mean "the end of local government as we know it." Now the Government has finally agreed, and Mr Tom King, Minister for Local Government, told a conference recently that this was indeed likely if local authorities failed to maintain the traditional co-operation.

A Bill before Parliament, the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Bill, provides an example, if not the model, for the proposed legislation.

Scottish authorities do not have the power anyway to impose supplementary rates, but the Bill enables the Secretary of State for Scotland to control the spending of each authority.

Commenting on the Bill, Mr Jack Smart, chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said the introduction of the Scottish provisions in Edinburgh would mark the end of local democracy and result in local authorities becoming merely administrative outposts of Whitehall.

Labour council to leave counties association

By Our Local Government Correspondent

A Labour-controlled county council yesterday said it is leaving the Association of County Councils because it had failed to resist strongly enough the Government's measures to control local spending.

Mr David Bookbinder, leader of Derbyshire County Council, which Labour won in the May elections, told the first meeting of the new association in London that Derbyshire would no longer continue in membership.

The council's decision reflects the unease within the association about its effectiveness in fighting for local government first and putting its loyalty to the Conservative Government second.

It is understood that other authorities are contemplating withdrawal, and Labour councils have been considering the feasibility of setting up an association of Labour councils.

Conservative authorities, too, are concerned. A group of them met on the eve of the meeting to discuss ways of opposing government policy, and the Government was sufficiently worried at that sign of revolt to have Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, and Mr Tom King, Minister for Local Government, attend the meeting to defend the Government's actions.

A leading figure in the association, Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. McLelland, chairman of Gloucestershire County Council, sent to all Conservative members on the association's execu-

tive council a memorandum that is strongly critical of the Government.

He said that many members had given warning and continued to do so that the block grant system was the beginning of the end of local democracy.

"On that issue we feel that our political leaders sold us down the river."

Col McLelland declared that the course of action being taken by Mr Heseltine "can only lead to a set-up for local government, akin to regional and district health authorities."

"This process will probably be hastened by the abolition of domestic rates, aided perhaps by limiting rate increases levied on business premises," he said. This assault on local government is a matter which makes all those who value it, irrespective of party, and must be vigorously opposed by all the local authority associations.

The association then proceeded to divide on party lines on a motion put forward by Mr Denis Pettitt, leader of Labour-controlled Nottinghamshire County Council, that the association should make the strongest possible protest to the Government against "the continued attacks on the principles of local democracy embodied in the Government's efforts to dictate local government spending levels."

The new executive council is made up of 99 Conservatives, 61 Labour, 12 Independents and seven Liberals. Yesterday's motion was lost by 89 votes to 62.

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FATAL CRASH AFTER HEART ATTACK

The driver of a car involved in a crash in which four people died had had a heart attack, an inquest in Birmingham was told yesterday.

Inspector James Wilson said the car driven by Mr William Kenrick, aged 72, crossed into the opposite lanes of the Aston Expressway in Birmingham and collided with a car driven by Mr Christodoulos Demetres.

Mr Demetres, aged 63, and his wife, Ivy, of Tamworth, Staffordshire, and Mr Kenrick's daughter, Mrs Judith Newcomer of Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire were killed in the crash.

Mr Kenrick, of Harborne, Birmingham, died in hospital the following day. A post-mortem examination showed he had had a heart attack. The inquest was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

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Unity appeal by Mitterrand to new Cabinet

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, June 24

For a basically conservative country which is widely believed to dislike change, the rhythm and scope of it have been bewildering. It is like a 1968 which has come off.

In the past couple of months, French political society has undergone a radical transformation. The "old regime", as M. Lionel Jospin, the first secretary of the Socialist Party, said on the night of the election last Sunday, has been swept away.

Even President Mitterrand, as one commentator said today, must be rubbing his eyes and wondering at times whether it is not just a dream.

He has been doggedly working for 26 years for this "union of the popular forces" as he put it today, when all 44 new ministers and state secretaries, one more than in the previous Mauroy Government, were gathered around him for the first meeting of the new Cabinet.

M. Charles Witeman, the number two of the Communist Party, and Minister of State for Transport, the third in the government hierarchy, was in a place of honour on his left.

"We had the impression of living a great moment of history," M. Mitterrand said after the meeting to two hundred reporters and cameramen milling about in the courtyard outside. "We are with the majority the bearers of a great hope."

In a speech of welcome to the six new ministers, one of whom is a Communist, M. Mitterrand declared: "This Government is a government of union. It takes into account the vast gathering of popular forces, of the forces of youth and labour, which played the first in the presidential election, and then in the parliamentary one."

"The support of a broad majority of our people for the policy I have defined is a guarantee of its success," he said. "The Government's aim is to achieve the reforms the country expects."

"The hope of our people is immense, and our responsibility is enormous. I know that the French men and women will have it in their hearts to gather always more numerous around the new, ambitious and generous policy which universal suffrage has endorsed, on May 10 and June 24."

For the benefit of the Communist ministers, M. Pierre

Mauroy, the Prime Minister, in turn reminded his colleagues of their individual and collective responsibility, and emphasized the obligation of solidarity to which they had subscribed.

It will certainly be needed to get through without too many hitches the ambitious legislative programme in the first session of the new Parliament which opens on July 2.

The supplementary budget and Bills on a new amnesty, on the suppression of the Court for State Security, and on decentralization to loosen the administrative stranglehold of Paris on the regions, must be adopted then. If necessary, the ordinary fortnightly session will be prolonged to the beginning of August.

The Communist ministers stole the limelight at the Cabinet meeting for which, in their eagerness to show their zeal, they were the first to report. The two non-Communist newcomers, M. Robert Badinter, a lawyer and dedicated abolitionist of the death penalty, who has become Minister of Justice, and M. Pierre Dreyfus, the successful president and managing director of the Renault national car company, who is the new Minister for Industry, no enthusiast for nationalization, scarcely received any attention from reporters.

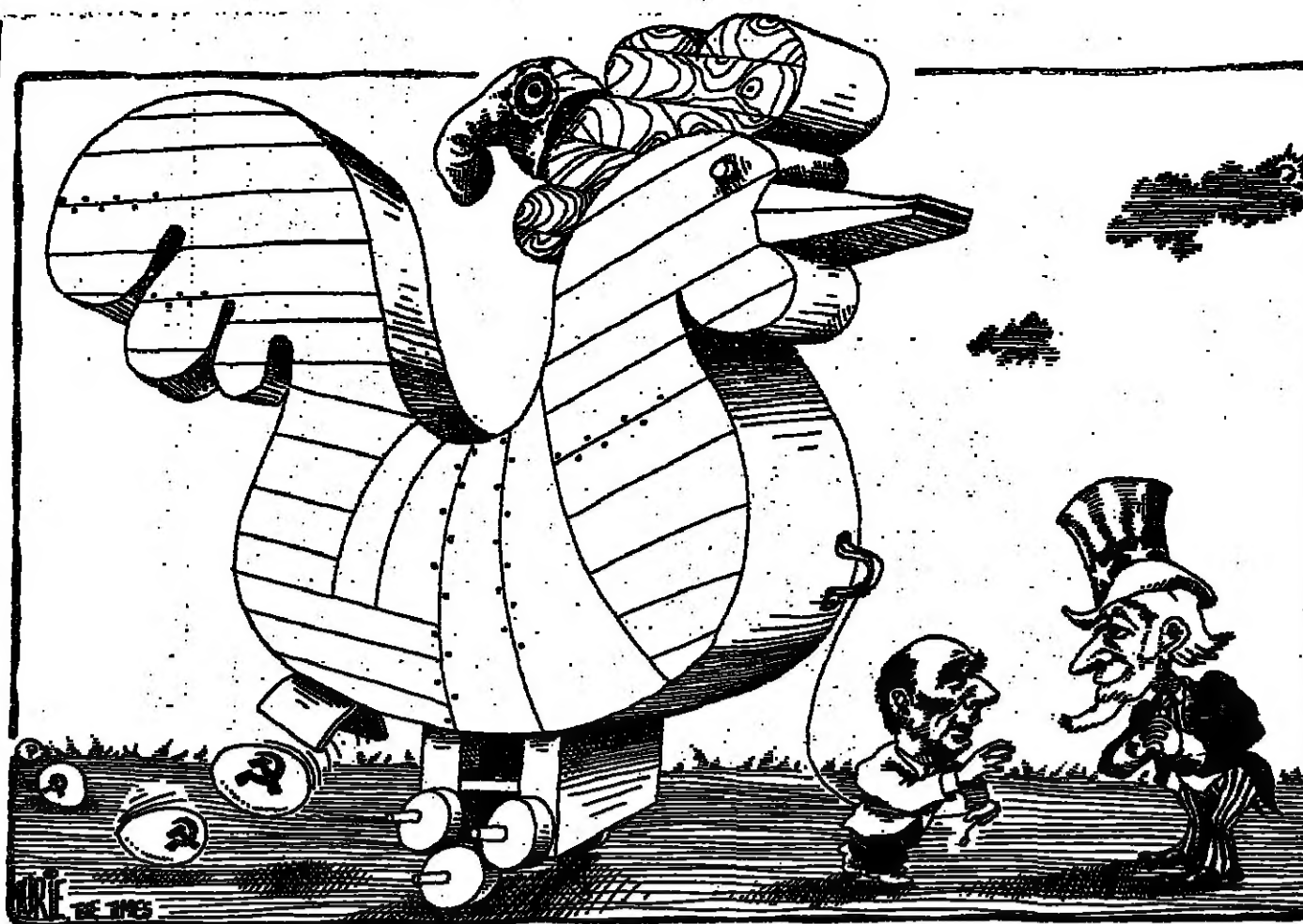
The addition of M. Dreyfus consolidates the phalanx of moderate ministers, the key departments of Defence, Finance, Education, and Foreign Affairs. Their presence in the Government is doubtless designed by President Mitterrand to compensate for the anxiety caused abroad by the appointment of Communist ministers.

Appointing Communist ministers is a tremendous political gamble, which General de Gaulle felt he could not avoid in his first Government in 1944.

But M. Mitterrand has deliberately taken on.

The adverse reactions abroad are what most commentators underline in the French press today. M. Mitterrand, they say, can have no illusions about the security of the wholehearted conversion of the Communists to the Socialist line.

"The only thing on which the Communist Party refused to give way in its negotiations with the Socialists," the *leftist* *Liberation* remarks sardonically, "was the appointment of a Socialist at the head of the Communist Party."



'May I introduce my new Cabinet?'

Main points of left-wing accord

Communists pledge absolute solidarity

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris, June 24

The following are extracts of the main points of the agreement reached between the French Socialist and Communist Parties on cooperation in President Mitterrand's Government. Conscious of the duties which are dictated to them by the situation, the two parties declare that they are determined to promote the new policy chosen by French men and women in electing Francois Mitterrand to the presidency of the Republic. They will do so in the National Assembly, in the framework of the majority which has just been created; they will do it in the Government with absolute solidarity. They will do it in the local and regional authorities, and in firms, while respecting the specific functions of the institutions and the parties.

The policy of change which is already under way through the first government measures will continue. The undertakings given will be honoured; they will, in particular, involve new measures of social justice and the increase of the earnings of the most underprivileged, which will be adopted in coming months.

It will be carried out by stages, according to a rhythm of transformation, which take into account the situation of crisis, arising from the fact that the economy of France is open to the outside world, and the necessary economic and financial equilibria.

In the same spirit, the two parties consider that, at the close of the current negotiations between trade unions and employers, legislation on the reduction in working hours should be prepared without delay.

The two parties consider that the extension of the public sector will be a guarantee of the effectiveness and of the democratization of state planning. They declare that they are in agreement that the extension and the details of the organization of the public sector should be carried out in accordance with the proposals ratified (by the voters) on May 10.

In the present situation of the country, the two parties consider necessary the setting up of a plan of recovery of two years which will create the conditions of a new economic growth and an effective battle against unemployment.

They will support a policy of reducing social inequalities.

The two parties will support the international action of France—while respecting its alliances—for peace and progressive disarmament in view of the simultaneous dissolution of military blocks, by ensuring the balance of forces in Europe and in the world, and the security of each country. In this context, they are in favour of an early start to international negotiations on the reduction of armaments in Europe. These negotiations must deal notably with the presence of Soviet SS20 missiles and with the decision to locate American Pershing II missiles.

The two parties will act in order to ensure the respect of the right of peoples to self-determination, of the sovereignty of states, of non-interference in their internal affairs, and for the right of each country to security.

By virtue of these principles, they affirm the right of the Afghan people to choose their own regime and government, and are in favour of the withdrawal of Soviet

troops from Afghanistan and the cessation of all foreign interference. Taking note of the situation created by the Camp David agreements, they reaffirm the right of Israel to existence and security of Israel and of all the states in the area, as well as the right of the Palestinians to a homeland.

The two parties will support actively the participation of France in the EEC. In its institutions and its common policies, while respecting France's freedom of action and legitimate interests.

The two parties have discussed the evolution of the situation in Poland, and wish that this country and its people should conduct themselves to a successful conclusion of the process of economic, social, and democratic renewal on which they have embarked.

They express, both in economic and political matters, their solidarity with the peoples of the Third World which, as in El Salvador and Nicaragua, fight for their national emancipation, their development and their democratic and social liberation.

leading article, page 17

Rajai favoured for Iran presidency

From Tony Allaway, Tehran, June 24

Mr Muhammad Ali Rajai, the Prime Minister of Iran emerged as the most likely successor to Mr Bani-Sadr as President.

The President's Council has lost no time in arranging fresh elections for the post. At its meeting last night it was decided that elections should be held on July 24—well within the 50-day limit set by the constitution.

But there was more than one hint that, for all intents and purposes, the election would be a one-horse race and that Mr Rajai would be the man destined to cross the finishing line.

Mr Rajai has already talked to a local journalist along the lines of "if the people want me."

Rather than the people, however, it is the all-powerful Islamic Republic Party that will undoubtedly take the decision. Its leader, Ayatollah Muhammad Beheshti, who sits with Mr Rajai on the three-man Presidential Council, told a press conference: "All Islamic societies and groups will introduce one (joint) candidate for this position."

Asked if Mr Rajai would be a candidate, he replied: "Yes, it is possible." The Ayatollah indicated that neither he, nor other clergymen would be chosen.

And the Presidential Council last night took steps that effectively allow Mr Rajai to be groomed for the post. He was given responsibility for the Presidential office and was also asked to sign a presidential decree—signing Parliamentary legislation into law.

Mr Rajai, a former high school lecturer and inmate of the Shah's prisons became the first Prime Minister of the new republic last night. He has also become the effective head of the Supreme Defence Council after the dismissal of Mr Bani-Sadr.

The purely ceremonial role to which the presidency was reduced in the political battle Mr Bani-Sadr would suit Mr Rajai. It is widely argued that he is in a sense a ceremonial figure in his present

position with the State Minister and Government spokesman Mr Behzad Nabavi wielding the real power.

Political observers who accept the likelihood of Mr Rajai's elevation feel that Mr Nabavi would replace him as Prime Minister.

Last night the Presidential Council also reinstated its third member, Hojatoleslam Hashemi Rafsanjani, the Speaker, as a member of the Supreme Defence Council. It is not clear whether he or Mr Rajai will chair the sessions. Mr Rafsanjani was ejected from the council at the height of the war with Mr Bani-Sadr when it was found the constitution did not allow his presence.

While the search continued today for the former President, now a fugitive, five more people were executed for the violence that struck the country last Saturday. Four of the executions, in Tabriz and the southern port of Bandar Abbas, were the first to be reported from the provinces.

In Tehran the fifth victim was said to have been a member of the outlawed Mujahedin Khalq guerrilla organization.

Four others, also executed in Tehran last night, confirmed a trend that has emerged this week—they were accused of collaboration with Israel, international Zionism and the officially reviled Bahai faith which the authorities here now described as the subversive sect.

Vienna: The Iranian ambassador to Austria said today that he has resigned in protest against the actions of his Government, which he said were unconstitutional and against the principles of Islam (Reuters report).

Mr Muhammad Abed-Nazari, said in a statement that Islam was being used as an excuse for undemocratic power politics in Iran.

He expressed surprise that the Iranian Government was now ignoring what he called the Fascist tendencies there.

Dissidents removed by union

Warsaw, June 24.—The Solidarity trade union has begun to moderate some of its more radical publications by removing dissidents from editorial jobs and toning down political comment, an official of the Warsaw branch said today.

The moves coincided with renewed complaints from Polish hardliners and critics in the Eastern bloc that the country's leaders had failed to suppress anarchy and counter-revolution.

Mr Marek Car, of Solidarity's Warsaw Information Service, gave examples of cases in which the union, under what he called pressure from workers, had taken steps to make local publications look more like trade union bulletins than dissident manifestos.

He said the union's branch in Tarnow had dissociated itself from a dissident publication, *Wielkopolski*, and that the Torun branch had suspended the pro-dissident editor of its newsletter *Wolne Slovo*. The editorial board was suspended from Lublin's *Buletyn Informacyjny* and there had been editorial changes in a similar publication at the Krakow polytechnic.

Mr Car added that Warsaw's news bulletins had stopped reporting dissident activities in the Soviet bloc. The distinction between union and dissident publications was becoming sharper every day, he said.

The Solidarity branch in Tarnow ran into difficulties with the local authorities over its association with *Wielkopolski*, which was originally a publication of the dissident Self-Defence Committee (KOR).

KOR was established to defend workers victimized after strikes in the city of Radom in 1976, and played a key role in the establishment of Solidarity last summer, but has since scaled down its activities.

Solidarity has also drawn away from its former dissident and allies. Mr Lech Walesa, the union's leader, has travelled the country calling for moderation. His campaign came after a stern warning from Moscow earlier this month and pledges by the authorities to crack down on what they have described as a wave of anti-Sovietism and anti-communism.

ensure that the traditional age of retirement should be extended from the present level of 55 years to 60 years in future," the council said.

More important, recent surveys indicate that the lack of leisure, rapid rationalization of industry and pressures on the average worker could undermine the country's enviable high rate of productivity.

According to the Productivity Centre, pressure of work was responsible for the suicides of 340 managers last year. "And the incidence of this form of suicide is on the increase," the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, the country's largest newspaper, said today.

Investigations by research teams suggest that the high rate of suicide among managers can be attributed, among other factors, to rapid change in the traditional system of linking promotion to seniority.

"The typical employee and

Comecon to assess Polish crisis

From Dossa Trevisan, Warsaw, June 24

The effects of the Polish crisis on the economies of its allies will be discussed at the Comecon summit which is scheduled to open in Sofia, the Bulgarian capital, on July 3.

It will provide the first two-leveled opportunity to review the situation in the light of Poland's continuing economic plight and its effect on the long-term integration plans of the Soviet bloc's economic community. Industrial co-production programmes have been seriously affected.

The meeting will be attended by the prime ministers of the seven European member states as well as of Mongolia, Cuba and Vietnam, which are now also full members of the grouping.

Mr Stanislaw Gomułka, who enjoys an associate relationship, whereas Yugoslavia has a permanent observer at Comecon councils and enjoys special arrangements in some industrial fields.

Poland's allies who rely on trade and cooperation with Poland saw a long-term battle now find themselves forced to look for suppliers in the hard-currency area, and this is well reflected in their mounting irritation with Warsaw.

Mr Stefan Orszewski, a member of the Polish Politburo, whose public addresses have shown great concern about the economic repercussions of the Polish crisis on the rest of the Comecon, said that the Poles must be made to realize that their allies were beginning to draw up a balance sheet of what they were getting and giving and would act accordingly.

In fact, some have already cut down their exports, but the Soviet Union continued to deliver raw materials.

Last year, Poland had asked for supplies in addition to the planned annual quotas and, in the first quarter of this year five Comecon states delivered more than 100m worth of additional goods.

As a result, Poland's debt to these five countries, which excludes the Soviet Union, increased by an additional £200m.

Since the beginning of the crisis, Polish exports to Comecon states dropped by 17 per cent, and this trend continued, despite some improvement in deliveries.

Britain fears appointments will undermine the Ten

From Michael Hornsby, Luxembourg, June 24

The appointment of four communists to ministerial posts in the new socialist Government in France is viewed with deep misgivings by Britain, which fears that it could undermine the EEC's efforts to forge a common approach with the United States to international issues.

Although this concern is unlikely to be expressed publicly, Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, is known to feel that an communist presence, even in fairly minor positions, is likely to make the Americans less willing to share their views candidly with the Ten on foreign policy and security matters.

Lord Carrington will be taking over the chairmanship of the EEC Council of Foreign Ministers for six months from Wednesday, and one of the main aims of his tenure will be to persuade the Americans of the need to take more account of the Palestinian issue in the search for a Middle East settlement.

Madrid: The communist appointment, a gaffe, was only to Spain's uneasiness, far right (Hertz, Debellewights).

The Madrid daily *Diario 16*, which prides itself on being progressive, said in a leading article today: "The social nature which the French Communist Party has always shown with regard to Moscow represents a serious cause for concern for the Western bloc."

PROFESSOR ACCUSED OF PLOT

Manila, June 24.—A university professor has been charged with leading a terrorist group which plotted to assassinate President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines.

Mr Ali Macaraya, aged 27, an engineering professor at Ateneo University in Manila, was arrested in the southern province of Lanao del Sur.

A Government report said Mr Macaraya told investigators that he was one of 11 leaders of a terrorist group calling itself Hardcore, UPI.

Breathing space for Schmidt

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, June 24

Some of the troubles besetting Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, and his Social Democratic Party have subsided, at least temporarily, after the approval by the Hamburg Senate of Herr Klaus von Dohnanyi, as the new mayor.

The appointment of Herr von Dohnanyi, a former Social Democratic minister in the Foreign Ministry, was accompanied by an agreement to freeze the Hamburg SPD's internal disputes over nuclear energy, thus sparing the party further demagogic squabbling for a few months.

The election strengthened the impression that the party was coping with internal division. A week earlier, Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, had said: "The Social Democratic Party has a long way to go before it can be a government."

This week the SPD parliamentary party in the Bundestag also managed to agree on rules allowing some freedom of expression for left-wing rebels so long as they voted according to the party line.

The Chancellor has appeared in excellent form during recent appearances after a phase of several months when he was widely expected to be in a decline.

But confident assertions of party leaders that the SPD is getting on top of its problems are likely to prove like previous such declarations of this sort to be over-optimistic. The recent agreements have not eliminated the underlying problems, the growing dissent in the party, particularly over nuclear missiles and nuclear energy remains, and it faces a severe test during negotiations over cuts in Government spending next month.

Europe MPs climb down in working place dispute

By David Wood

The European Parliament's defiant ultimatum to the Council of Ministers a year ago demanding by this month one instead of three official working places, begins to collapse in patches. The Parliament's political affairs committee has decided on a standstill on the issue.

The committee's proposal to continue to work simultaneously in Strasbourg and Brussels would mean that the gross inefficiency and cost of parliamentarism would go on as before, and that any absurdly undisciplined glacial working conditions would be unchanged.

Hardly less serious, Parliament's staff would remain as confused as ever about their future. The European Democratic Group believes that the committee's resolution is not only cowardly but totally contradictory.

At the Parliament's July session in Strasbourg Sir James Scott-Hopkins, the leader of the Anglo-Danish Conservative Group, exploded yesterday. He said: "The political affairs committee has abdicated its responsibility to decide on a standstill meeting place for the Parliament. The committee's proposal to continue to work simultaneously in Strasbourg and Brussels would mean that the gross inefficiency and cost of parliamentarism would go on as before, and that any absurdly undisciplined glacial working conditions would be unchanged."

Hardly less serious, Parliament's staff would remain as confused as ever about their future. The European Democratic Group believes that the committee's resolution is not only cowardly but totally contradictory.

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China ousts Pope's man

Peking, June 24.—Bishop Dominic Yiming Tang, who was named by the Pope as the Vatican's Archbishop in Canton, has been removed from his post.

Mr Tang, who is 73, was released from a Chinese prison last year and went to Hong Kong for medical treatment earlier this year. After the Pope's appeal to Chinese Catholics to return to the Vatican, Mr Tang went to Rome to meet Pope John Paul.

The Chinese Church, however, which does not recognize the Vatican's authority, opposed the appointment of Mr Tang as Archbishop of Canton. —UPI

All work and little play make Japanese neurotic

From Peter Hazlehurst, Tokyo, June 24

For three decades Japan's disciplined and industrious workforce has been a driving force behind the country's phenomenal rise as the world's second economic power.

Today, as Japan enters the eighties, untroubled by widespread industrial unrest, managers can still rely on employees who put the future of their companies above short-term personal gain. Surveys indicate that only 20 per cent of the workers take their full quota of annual paid holidays.

But sociologists and economists are now becoming alarmed at signs that hard work and very little play are turning many workers into neurotic and unstable employees.

A survey by the Japan Productivity Centre, which investigated the lives of 12,000 workers, indicated that nearly one out of ten employees has a mental breakdown or is suffering from some form of neurosis.

At the same time an independent investigation by the Osaka Public Sanitation Institute reports that one out of ten workers belonging to the city's large corporations uses tranquilizers every day.

"This situation poses a grave problem for society and cannot be ignored," the respected Japan Productivity Centre said recently.

Economists and industrialists also believe that the structure of the workforce will be further undermined by a rapidly ageing population during the next two decades.

A report by the Employment Research Council predicts that by the turn of the century more than 25 per cent of the workforce will be more than 55 years of age.

"As a consequence the Government should take steps to

manager will have to fight for promotion in future instead of going on the ladder automatically according to his seniority, a report by the National Personnel Authority says.

The growing incidence of mental illness among workers can also be attributed to the rapid technological changes in a country which now employs 80 per cent of the world's advanced industrial robots. The *Yomiuri Shimbun* suggests that many workers who have succumbed to mental breakdowns have been unable to cope with technical changes because they are unaccustomed to having more time for leisure.

The Productivity Centre suggests that the threat of mental disease can be reduced by ensuring that the right pace is put into the right job at an early stage after industry is rationalized.

INSIDE THE CZECH GAOLS

IN APRIL, CZECHOSLOVAK BORDER GUARDS CAUGHT A FRENCH COUPLE SMUGGLING AN ILLEGAL DUPLICATING MACHINE ACROSS THE FRONTIER. PLUS HALF A TON OF ILLICIT LITERATURE.

THE INCIDENT SPARKED OFF A NEW WAVE OF REPRESSION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AIMED AT THE DISSIDENTS. THIRTY PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED, SEVENTEEN WERE CHARGED—OF WHOM EIGHT ARE STILL BEING HELD.

THE CZECHS PLAN A MAJOR SHOW TRIAL THIS AUTUMN.

JULIAN MANYON AND A TV EYE FILM CREW SLIPPED SECRETLY INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO INVESTIGATE THE ARRESTS. THEY OBTAINED UNDERCOVER FILM OF THE PRISON WHERE THE DISSIDENTS ARE BEING HELD WITH OTHER CRIMINALS. THEY TALKED TO SOME OF THE DISSIDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED THEIR TIME IN GAOL. THE STORY THEY TELL IS A CHILLING ONE.

WHILE IN POLAND THE GOVERNMENT MAKES MORE AND MORE CONCESSIONS, THE CZECHS ARE TRYING TO STAMP OUT ALL OPPOSITION.

WILL THEY SUCCEED?

TV EYE THE LAST ROUND UP?

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Reagan's battle to turn economy ignites Congress

From Frank Vogl, United States Economics Correspondent
Washington, June 24

White House officials say President Reagan is increasing his efforts to lobby Congress in support of his budget bills. He wants the bills passed by early August. He is leaving no doubt that enactment of his economic programmes is his top priority.

So far this week the President has appealed for support to state governors, who came to the White House, to conservative Democratic members of the House of Representatives, who he courted to break fast, to Republican politicians who enjoyed a more substantial White House meal and to dozens more congressmen who he reached on the telephone. Today President Reagan flies to Texas and then to the West to drum up support for his budget.

Meanwhile, the pace of congressional moves to enact public spending bills and a tax cutting bill is slow. The Republicans are moving along in the Senate, where they hold the majority, but the Democrats are taking full advantage of their House of Representatives majority to place obstacles in the President's path.

Showing matches between Democrats and Republicans are daily becoming more shrill. Mr Thomas O'Neill, the Speaker of the House, is leading the attack on the President and the Republicans. Mr Daniel Rostenkowski, chairman of the ways and means committee of the House, is taking his time about formulating tax cuts that must still be discussed with the Republican Party leadership.

The American press is fueling the budget excitement with daily reports that suggest that bargains are being struck and votes taken on Capitol Hill at a breathtaking pace. The press is a most willing participant to the drama of President Reagan's test of strength with Congress and it seems now that only a foreign crisis could distract the media's attention.

In 1978 Congress and President Carter's White House waged battle for 10 months over curbing public works and other bills. The clock was running out as congressmen desperately searched for ways to leave Washington and to campaign for re-election in the November polls.

Over a weekend in mid-October Congress met for 35 hours with earlier negotiated deals abandoned, new agreements and compromises struck and the session completed with a confusing flurry of final votes.

Now it is not impending elections but the summer holiday that is prompting Congress to act on the economic legislation. In the coming days all manner of compromises will be announced and then, soon afterwards, they will be buried aside in the game of American party politics.

The House of Representatives and the Senate must each vote individually on spending and tax bills. Once work in each House has been completed the leaders of both Houses will seek to negotiate compromise bills and have them passed by the full Senate and the full House of Representatives. The President looks now as if he will have no difficulty with the Senate.

But the Democrats look as if they are going to send their own spending bill to the floor and use the rules committee, where they have a large majority, to prevent a rival Republican spending bill reaching the House floor. The result could be that the House and Senate will pass such radically different spending bills that it will prove impossible to work out a compromise.



A fire fighter runs for his life as flames, fanned by high winds, sear through the brush of Soda Canyon, California. The fire has spread across 23,000 acres in wine country. Arson is suspected.

Pakistan will have first F16 aircraft by end of year

From Trevor Fishlock, Islamabad, June 24

Two American F16 fighters are expected to be flying with the Pakistan Air Force by the end of this year. Both Pakistan and the United States regard their delivery as urgent.

The aircraft will be the spearhead of a force of F16s, likely to be two squadrons, which will be built up over the next two or three years.

A number of instructor pilots will leave Pakistan shortly for conversion courses in the United States which will take three or four months. It will take longer to train technicians to maintain the aircraft and to programme the electronic systems.

The sale of the first two F16s, and of several others, will be outside the \$1,500m military and economic aid deal, recently discussed by Pakistan and the United States, which now awaits approval.

The F16 is single-engine fighter, made by General Dynamics at Fort Worth, Texas, and costs \$7.5m. Pakistan will meet some of the cost from its own resources and the rest is expected to be covered by a loan, and details of which are still being worked out, from an Arab country. It is believed the loan is being negotiated with Saudi Arabia.

Pakistan is anxious to have F16s as quickly as possible. It considers them its priority defence requirement.

For its part the Reagan Administration wants to emphasize its determination to help what it regards as a front-line state facing Russian-occupied Afghanistan.

The announcement made after the recent Pakistan-United States talks in Islamabad talked of the "seriousness and immediacy of the threat to Pakistan's security" and of American agreement to "the early delivery of selected equipment urgently needed to meet the threat."

Although outside the framework of the aid package, the early delivery of some F16s is plainly within the spirit of it. After building the nucleus of its F16 force, Pakistan will be able to buy more of the aircraft with the loans provided under the deal, which is divided into one-third economic aid and two-thirds military sales loans.

The arrangement, when concluded, will give Pakistan up to \$200m a year to spend on arms, with up to 30 years to pay. Although it is not known how many F16s Pakistan would like to buy, it is believed it would like two squadrons to replace its three squadrons of veteran F86 Sabres, now grounded.

A squadron in Pakistan is 16 aircraft. With reserve aircraft, two squadrons would need 40 F16s which, together with spares and other equipment, would cost \$175m.

Slogans in blood at Seoul rally

From Jacqueline Rediff
Seoul, June 24

About one and a half million South Koreans joined in a mass anti-communist rally, burning effigies of President Kim Il Sung of North Korea, and his son, Kim Jong Il, in Seoul today on the eve of the thirty-first anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean war.

By 6 am thousands of demonstrators converged on Seoul's Yoido Island in the Han river, blocking traffic for miles around and preventing many people from reaching their place of work.

The rally was sponsored by the Korea Anti-Communist League, headed by Mr Suh Jong Chul, the former Defence Minister. The demonstrators carried placards with slogans reading: "Stand up and crush the communists", and "knock down the northern puppets".

Anti-communist speeches by political, religious and student leaders, accusing President Kim of plotting another war and the North of thousands of roadside violations, were greeted with wild applause. As the hysteria increased one man cut his belly with a knife and wrote in his blood: "Crush the communists", while another bit his fingers and used his blood to write: "Let's give our people in the North".

The burning of 16 effigies of President Kim and his son brought the rally to a close to the sound of cheers and the singing by a girls' high school choir.

There are many death squads involved with state security bodies, Señor Carazo says. He claims that "if the Christian Democrats do not participate in the electoral process, the elections will not resolve the country's problems. This is the last chance before the country becomes polarized and heads for a civil war."

An orgy of killing by extremists on the right and left has claimed an estimated 25,000 lives in 15 years. Amnesty International has accused the military regime of President Romeo Lucas García of directing a programme of murder and torture from an annex of the national palace.

More than 3,000 people died as a result of the alleged murder campaign last year, Amnesty International estimates. Señor Mario Sandoval Alarcón, aged 58, the former Vice-President, is presidential candidate of the ultra-conservative National Freedom Movement and is confident of winning.

"We believe," he says, "that Central America is fighting one of the most decisive battles in the world at this moment. If the communists conquer Central America, the world will have taken a great step backwards. If I become President, I'll put an end to the communists."

Guatemala has eight registered political parties. The Communist Party has been outlawed since 1954, when the United States helped to depose the reformist President Jacobo Arbenz Guzmán.

Señor Arbenz Guzmán had encouraged peasants and workers to form unions, earning for himself the reputation of being a communist.

Colonel Carlos Castillo Armas, who replaced him, allegedly ordered the killing of hundreds of the ousted President's followers. Workers and peasant organizations were disbanded and the leftist guerrilla movement was born. Four main groups operate today.

Angered by President Carter's drive to get Latin American governments to improve their human rights records, Guatemala rejected United States military assistance in 1977 and went to other arms suppliers.

Washington removed Mr Frank Ortiz, the ambassador, last year as tensions continued. However, the Reagan Administration is seeking to improve relations with the regime, which Major General Lucas García has headed since 1977.

The country's violence has affected the economy, which grew by only 3 per cent last year, against an average 7.9 per cent in recent years. Yet a cause for some optimism in business and government circles is the discovery of oil four years ago. Commercial production is only about 8,000 barrels per day.

Hanoi hint to Washington

Hanoi, June 24.—Vietnam is still prepared to normalize its relations with the United States, Mr Nguyen Co Thach, the Vietnamese Foreign Minister, said here today.

He described as violent the words of Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, towards Vietnam last week.

Mr Haig said in Manila that Washington would keep pressure on Vietnam, particularly economic pressure, until it withdraws its troops from Cambodia. He also urged Hanoi to attend the United Nations-sponsored conference on Cambodia due to start in New York on July 13.

"We are still prepared to normalize our relations—this is in the interest of our two countries," Mr Thach said today. But he also said that for the time being there was no sign of normalization. Agence France-Presse.

'Uganda refugees killed'

Kampala, June 24.—Ugandan soldiers killed about 50 refugees and wounded 100 today at the Verona Fathers mission station at Ombei, near the town of Arua, according to reliable sources here.

Reports reaching here said that the soldiers opened fire as panicking refugees fled from the mission in the face of approaching fighting between Ugandan troops and anti-government rebels.

About 7,000 local people were believed to have sought refuge at Ombei over the past few days.

The International Red Cross and a team from the French organization, Doctors without Frontiers, were trying to evacuate the wounded to an Italian hospital at Abuja, they added.

Fighting between the soldiers and rebels broke out earlier today at Arua, which had already been badly looted by the uncontrolled Ugandan troops. Reports earlier this week said that an estimated 1,500 Ugandan soldiers, who had mutinied because of lack of food, were in total disorder. Agence France-Presse.

POPE HAS VIRAL INFECTION

Rome, June 24.—The Pope, who is back in hospital for tests, has a virus infection which his doctors believe is not serious.

The Pope returned to hospital last Saturday because of a persistent temperature. Tests, X-rays and body scanning showed no evidence of anything which could explain the temperature.

Gunfire heard near Kabul

Delhi, June 24.—Afghan Rebel attacks on Soviet and Afghan military forces have increased in Kabul and heavy fighting was reported in surrounding areas over the past week, Western diplomatic sources said today.

Gunfire was heard in and around Kabul day and night and Soviet MIG 21 jets and helicopter gunships made frequent passes over the city, the sources said. Kabul residents saw flames and tracerbullets lighting up the night sky in several directions.

At least two members of the ruling People's Democratic Party including an army officer, were shot dead by rebels on Monday in the city, the sources said.—Reuter.

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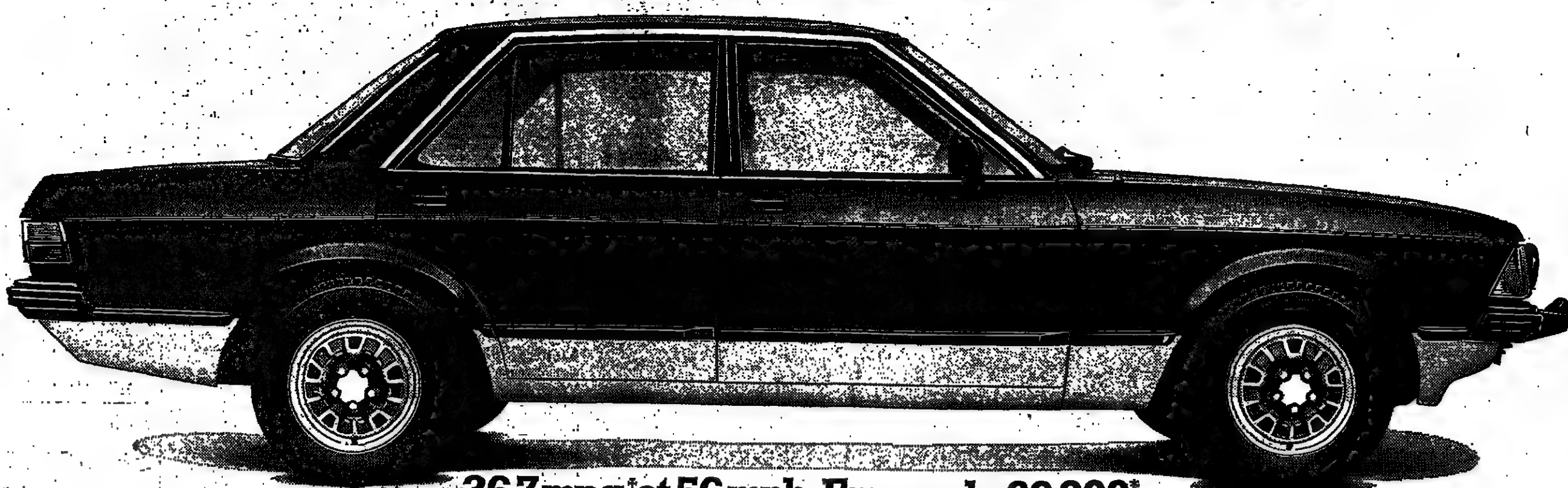
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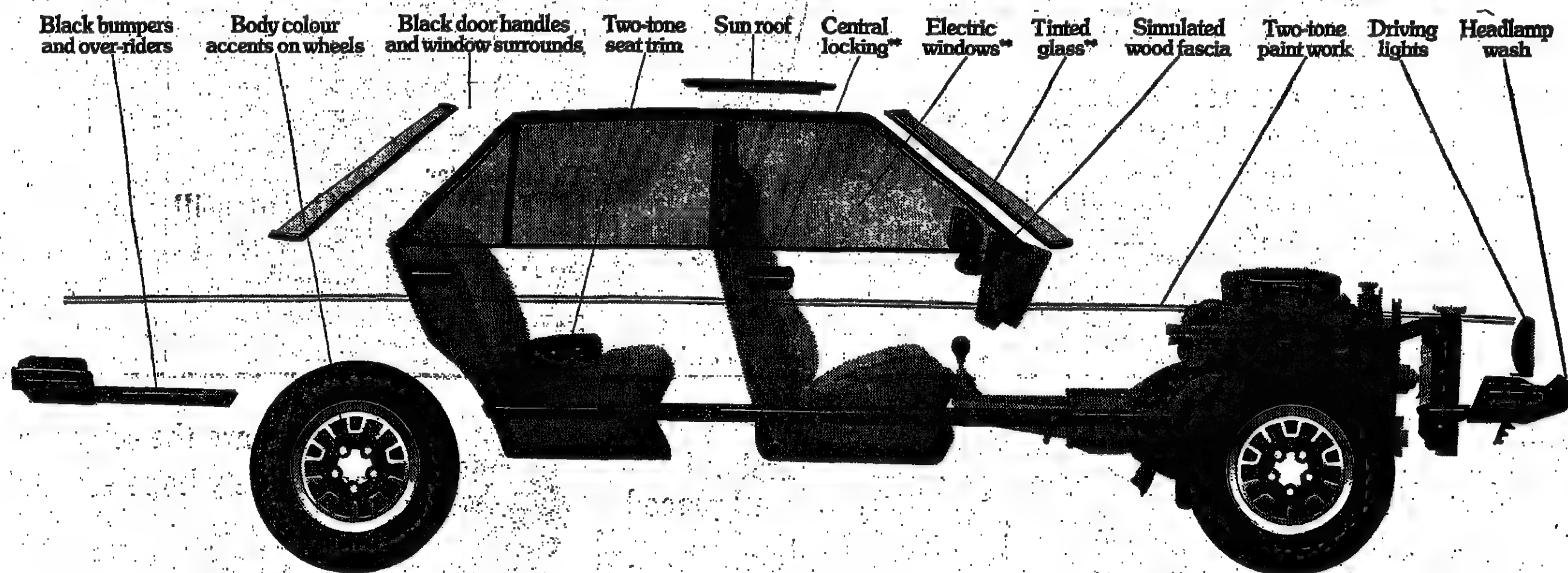
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*Car illustrated is fitted with the special option pack.

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Tennis

McEnroe's partner is penalized for mocking the umpire

By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent

The third day of the Wimbledon championships was the first to be afflicted by rain, which made a few threats and then filled the air with raindrops. The programme nevertheless tossed some interesting trivia to the eager public. Leslie Allen and Renee Blount the most prominent black players in women's tennis since Althea Gibson, were among the winners. The six foot seventh seed Pamela Shriver beat little Elizabeth Wilander, who is 10 inches smaller.

Mats Wilander, aged 16, became only the third Swede—other than Bjorn Borg—to reach the third round since the moody but gifted Jan-Erik Lundqvist advanced a round further in 1963. John McEnroe's astute was restricted to a mild inquiry about the possibility of reducing the noise level of the refrigeration plant. His doubles partner, Peter Fleming, was given an early warning for a "time violation" and was later penalized a point for mocking the umpire when a net cord was used as a decision. Fleming considered a long overdue.

Miss Allen, aged 24, is a 1975 Wimbledon champion, a reputation for being a "stray" player which is to say that her form can vary wildly from match to match. She lost the first set to Marie Pinterova, because Mrs Pinterova is confusing player to confront. She was born in Czechoslovakia but lives in Hungary. She has a physical education degree and goes some way towards explaining how she comes to be competing in the same event as a child 20 years her junior (she is 34).

The most confusing thing about Mrs Pinterova, though, is the fact that she serves left handed but otherwise plays right handed. Miss observed that these technical peculiarities with black interest, sorted out the implications, decided that there was nothing much to worry about and won the second and third sets with an ease less casual than her demeanour suggested.

Joanna Durie, of Bristol, aged 20, had a good win over Lucia Romanov to earn a third round match with Wendy White, a bouncy and engaging Georgian two months her junior. Miss White had some cliff-hanging to do.

Paula Cannan, of New Jersey, aged 17, is one of those players richly endowed with energy and eager to spend it. She won the first set 6-3 and Miss Wilander needed every scrap of her skill and tenacity to win an arduous game and lead 5-1 in the second.

In the men's event Wilander beat Henri Leconte, of France, aged 17, to confirm a ascendancy established in junior events. Wilander won Swedish teenage championships at three different levels and has much in common with

him in his playing method, his tactical shrewdness, and his competitive steel. To help your memory, the two other Swedes to the Wimbledon-Borg era were Ove Bengtson (three times) and Birger Andersson.

Borg's teasing variations of length, pace and angle were highly educational for Mel Purcell of Kentucky, aged 21, who was playing his first Wimbledon. Purcell has corn-coloured hair and carries no excess weight. He plays to the principle that he can run down almost any shot that has bounced only once and is still on the premises. But Borg and grass confound that principle.

Fleming is a humorist with an unfortunately arrogant air. The penalty came for jumping up and down, which I thought perfectly fair because the guy for making a racket was called "Eureka" and was making light of the situation. The umpire considered it an affront. He must be very sensitive. I didn't realize he was cutting so deeply. You can't take all the fun out of the game. But the hardest call of all is to say "Let from the chair, it's just the luck of the draw that John's incidents and mine happened to be against the Gallikson twins."

Fleming was among the unfinished matches. In another, Jimmy Connors leads Chris Lewis of New Zealand by 7-5, 7-5, 1-2. In spite of Connors' impish lobbing, the match was dominated by such net-skimming, grass hugging shots that at any moment one expected the rallies to become subterranean, with moles popping up and waving white flags. Short rallies though it was, it was some fun—until the guy assumed a metallic hue and then delivered the inevitable message.

New York's American sports columnist were almost as critical today as British newspapers have been of the Wimbledon antics of John McEnroe. Michael Lespian writes in the New York Times, the veteran writer Red Smith, called Wimbledon "The stage on which a spoiled brat like John McEnroe can demonstrate just how ugly American can get", though he pointed out that boorishness in sport is not an American monopoly.

He went on that should, of course, have been firing out of the tournament on to his ear, but leniency on the part of tennis officials has become something close to a vice. The solution is to throw the bums out, and do it on the first offence.

"Perhaps nothing can be done to alter the fact that top players who behave like dead-end kids do draw cash customers. It should, though, be possible to teach the whippersnappers a few manners."

At the local King's College, Wimbledon, was broken early in the third set and his prospect of a place in the third round, a feat he had achieved in 1974 and 1977, drifted away in the sultry air. So he went down in the second round—as he has done on five occasions in eight attempts since 1974.

The fall of Britain's No 11 may not be as surprising as the rise of America's No 11. In seven years it was only Andy's third singles victory at Wimbledon. He will always be remembered for his lengthy struggle against Borg three years ago but, apart from Flieg on Monday, van Dillen is his only other victim, and that was in 1976.

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Giant hope: Victor Amaya wields the hammer of Thor.



Giant despair: Miss Maccaria drinks the dregs of defeat.

Flower of youth fades in cruelty of reality

By Geoffrey Green

It was not quite a winter's tale at Wimbledon—but almost. A cold wind ruffled the awnings, pages of useless notes took flight and by bedtime a heavy dark cloud, with the size of a man's hand, had not only stopped the action but later turned to rain.

By that time the centre court had seen Miss Navratilova, champion of 1978 and 79, but now seeded fourth, much to her chagrin—sweep young Miss Mascuru—17 years old on Sunday—off court by 6-0, 6-1, in just over half an hour.

It was, perhaps, a cruel condemnation. The first set certainly was an embarrassment. The young American gathered only five points as the Czechoslovakian began to recognize her surroundings. Top junior player of the world, winner of the American and Australian titles—titles—she had all the golden little ones are taking these, their eyes on bigger things—she clearly has much to offer. Experts will help to face the Headmaster's study was both well-behaved and deeply impressive in that opening set, which he won 6-0, 6-0, 6-0, so much grace that he gave.

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Sevens game jumps on the synthetic banwagon

Rugby Union

Queen's Park Rangers' artificial pitch in the autumn. Representatives and players from 10 major London clubs will try the synthetic turf surface at Loftus Road today with a view to spending a seven-day tournament there, probably on the last Sunday in September.

Brian Kirwan, of Richmond, spokesman for the rugby festival organizers, said: "We are looking for a venue for our event and there is great interest in synthetic turf among first team players."

If the festival goes ahead it will be the first time Rugby Union has been played on synthetic turf in Britain.

The English Hockey Association have already decided to stage their annual tournament, which will be played on October 17 and 18, while the possibility of a synthetic pitch is being explored. The event is under the aegis of the British Hockey Federation, which is in the business of selling entertainment," Chris Armstrong, a Rangers director, said.

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46 pts £35.55

47 pts £35.55

48 pts £35.55

49 pts £35.55

50 pts £35.55

51 pts £35.55

52 pts £35.55

Cricket

Notts hopes faded in poor evening light

By Richard Streeton

NOTTINGHAM: Surrey beat Nottinghamshire by 7 runs.

Nottinghamshire must have rued their decision to bat second in this Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-final round match. Three times early on in their innings there were stoppages for bad light and on each occasion they lost a wicket when play began again.

The light was still dreadful as Randall and Rice added 67 with forceful strokes that had a hint of desperation about it. When these two were out Nottinghamshire's hopes were virtually ended and the main issue was whether the margin could be completed in the day.

Wickets continued to fall with 70 retired from the last 10 overs. Clarke's return brought Hadlee three successive fours but the New Zealanders were then held from a tight catch behind the bowler as Surrey went on to complete their victory at 8.12. By then, the conditions did not really seem suitable for cricket for a long time.

Nottinghamshire, needing 227 to win, were 40 for three from 17 overs when Rice, mostly used by Clarke to take the first two wickets, knocked back Todd's off stump, and then he yanked Robinson after the new stoppage. Hassan was caught behind off Thomas when the players came back for the third reumption.

In the circumstances some of Randall's strokeplay was brilliant. Rice was put when he drove a catch to mid-on. Randall's brave innings ended when he was held on the square leg boundary. M. J. N. Smith gave the gold award to Knight.

It was always gloomy while Surrey batted though their innings was completed without interruption. They owed a lot to a second wicket stand between Clinton and Knight, who put on 104 in 27 overs and also to extras, which were the third largest contribution. Knight and Lynch were both well set to lead the closing assault when they were out in successive overs. Surrey still need 100 runs when Hadlee and Rice returned for the last eight overs but this was not many as Knight probably wanted.

Rice was bowling for the first time for a week, following a back strain. He bowled a few shorter runs. If neither man bowled at his fastest, they still remained an awkward proposition in a limited over match. Surrey bowled some good balls but

Cooper was inclined to over-pitch. Nottinghamshire's necessary thrust while filling the fifth bowler's role.

Knight has always done well with both bat and ball in this competition since its inception in 1972. Before this season in fact he had scored more runs in the Benson than anybody else though Boycott has since overtaken him. He came to now in the 12th over after Butcher had hit a ball into his stumps. Knight from the start made some uncertain strokes but interspersed all through his stay were some splendid drives.

Clinton was more unobtrusive, mostly gathering runs either side of point but he was always willing to hit hard against anything loose. The closest Knight came to making a mistake was when he was seven and drove upishly against Cooper. Robinson at mid-on however was slow to move forward and the ball dropped safely in front of him.

These two were still together at lunch with Clinton forthcoming when 39 to survive a difficult situation to chase against a quicker ball from Hemmings that also took French by surprise and went for boundary. French had to have a dislocated finger put back during the morning but generally kept well.

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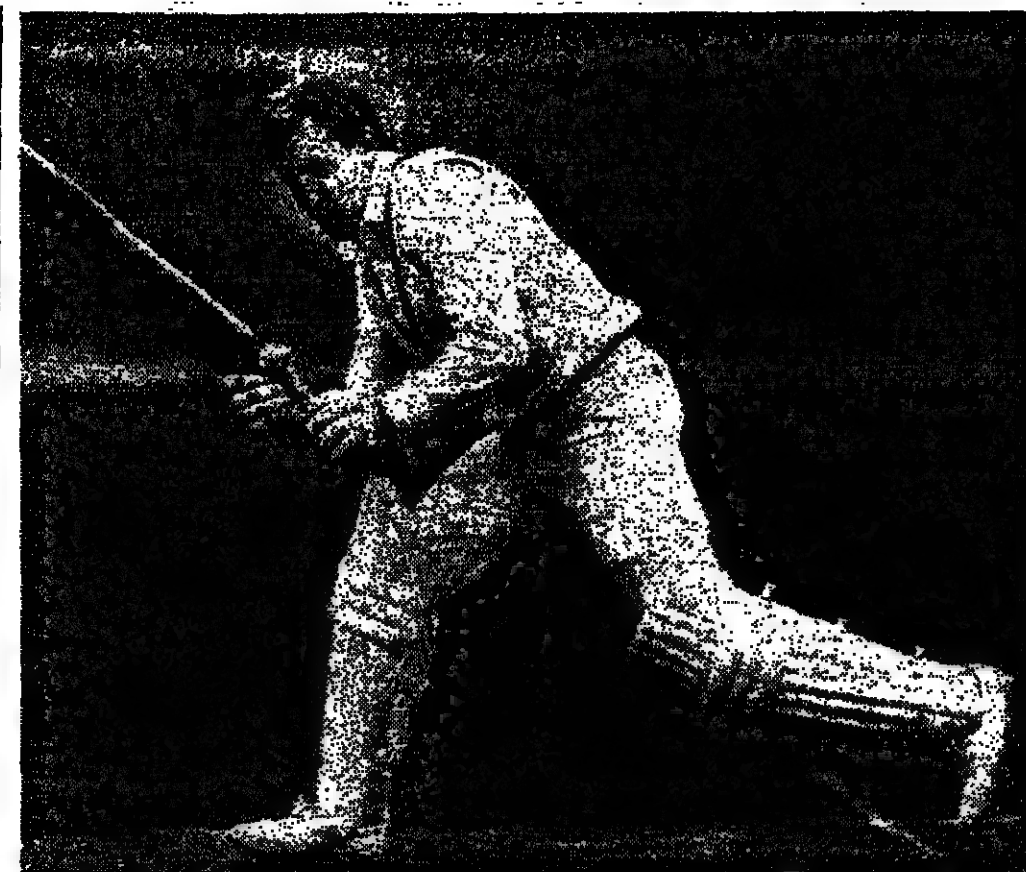
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Athey, whose fine innings of 58 failed to save Yorkshire from defeat.

Golden Rose award is priceless

By Peter Marston

LEEDS: Somerset beat Yorkshire by three wickets.

Somerset reached the semi-final round of the Benson and Hedges Cup for the third time yesterday, after a hard-fought battle of the Roses, where 68 runs won him the gold award, Denning (58) and Richards (47) whose big hitting made the game safe. Yorkshire, though outplayed, fought gallantly and kept a feeble flame flickering with the wickets of Richards, Martin and Poppelew in the fifty-third over.

It was cloudy and dull in the morning when a crowd of some 10,000 stood with the players in a silent tribute to Sir Kenneth Parkinson, Yorkshire's president, who died on Saturday last. A fine great outfield and an emerald green were in sharp contrast to the pitch, a narrow, buff strip.

Boycott raised the first cheer with runs off Garner and Botham. Boycott, retaining a wry smile for Botham.

Initially all was well with the batsmen. Boycott and young Botham were opening Yorkshire's batting for the first time, but they might well have been old hands judging from sprightly running between the wickets.

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Sussex look to Wells for runs they need

By John Woodcock

Cricket Correspondent

Hope: Sussex have scored 84 for five wickets against Leicestershire.

Things went pretty well for Leicestershire yesterday, insofar as they could. They were greeted with the good news, for them, that Sussex's most dangerous batsman, was unfit to play; that they won the toss, which gave them the chance to bowl first; and that they were 84 for five at 5.50, when the weather closed in again. Sussex, recovering slightly, had reached 84 for five after 28 overs.

The long delay was due to heavy rain, but the early finish to the match was a relief to all concerned. With the ball machine, it was no day for batting, though you might not have thought so from the way the batsmen played. If they had come in at the fall of the fourth wicket, Sussex have not been able to find a regular partner in the offing, though yesterday the breeze was from the north, with a hint of rain in the air.

The opening wicket was indeed light, yet by the third round the wind had freshened to give planning conditions and caused a couple of batsmen to take a mark. In between, it shifted direction as it gathered strength, going from one way and then the other, thoroughly confusing the batsmen.

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Yachting Australian leaders are not to be disturbed

By John Nicholls

British boats were hard pressed to finish among the prize-winners at Weymouth yesterday in the first race of the Fireball class world championship. Four of the first six places were taken by overseas boats, two each from Australia and South Africa. The best of the British could manage was fourth place by Neil Martin and Peter Brown.

Philip Morrison and Jonathan Turner started one of their late recoveries to finish sixth and stayed well on course to take the championship at the end of the week. Lavinia Smith and Mark Simpson were eighth and remain closest on points to Morrison.

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THE ARTS

The burgeoning operatic spirit of St Louis

First in booze, first in shoes, but bottom of the Baseball League

The old chant of St Louis, Missouri, is only partly true nowadays. To be sure, the giant red brick home of Budweiser and Michelob on the banks of the Missouri remains the biggest brewery in the world. But the shoe industry is not what it was. And the form of the St Louis Cardinals, named after the scarlet plumaged birds that deck the trees in this state, is impossible to judge: the strikers are striking, but so too are the pitchers and for the moment because of industrial action no one can go down to the ball game.

Those searching for supremacy in the city might cast their eyes in the direction of musical theatre. For over 60 years there has been the Muni, the Municipal Theatre Association of St Louis, which seats nearly 12,000 and one of the granddaddies of summer stock.

This season's opener is *Kiss Me Kate*. Robert Goulet, apparently well over his problems of yesterday, is in first rate vocal and physical fettle as Fred Graham/Petruchio, played with the swagger Howard Keel used to employ. Goulet, who will be in London at Grosvenor House later in the year, virtually carries the show on his hefty shoulders, with a little help from Maurice Hines, dancer brother of Gregory, who is currently giving out Broadway star performances in Sophisticated Ladies.

From the Muni, as traditional and Middle American as Ted Drewe's Frozen Custard Pavilion to the south of the city, waft the smell of popcorn and the cries of COLD BEER... R. Cold beer is the only thing the Muni has in common with the Opera House of St Louis, housed in the University theatre of Webster Groves. Here nothing is traditional and it typifies the new spirit of St Louis, which seems to be wagging its finger at those who say East and West Coast, saying "Come and look at us and be surprised, we've had enough of visiting you".

Come they do, the agents, the impresarios, the directors of opera planning. In its six seasons the theatre has established a reputation for showing off the best of the new generation of singers and for staging works that cannot be heard elsewhere. And that is the plan of the men who have taken over the theatre from the start, Richard Gaddes, an Englishman touching 40 who rose up the musical world via the Wigmore Hall and, later, Glyndebourne.

Gaddes began with a self-imposed double charter. He was going to employ only young North American singers, although he is not averse to importing producers and conductors. Colin Graham, an associate director, Jonathan Miller will work here next summer. And he insisted on establishing a regular pattern for the month-long season each



left: Kathryn Bouleyn and David Bankston as Fennimore and Eric in a *Fennimore and Gerda* that captures the soft, rhapsodic mood of Delius's score; above: Manuel Alum, the virtuoso dancing Yukinojo in Miki's *An Actor's Revenge*; right: Richard Gaddes, the English general director of an "American Glyndebourne"

summer: a Mozart, a familiar repertory piece, a rarity, and a new work. The pattern prevails. Next season will probably bring *Coï fan tute*, *Leisir d'amore*, Prokofiev's *Maddalena* and the premiere of *The Postman always Rings Twice*, written by the young Minneapolis composer Stephen Paulus to a libretto after the Cain novel by Colin Graham — both men claim they knew nothing of Bob Rafelson's remake of the 1943 picture when they started work.

This season's two successes have been the rarity and the new work, while the out-and-out flop, in production terms, has been *Rigoletto*. And that was a clue to the Gaddes path.

The rarity, Delius's *Fennimore and Gerda*, seems never to have been staged in America before. Not that Britain was particularly swift off the mark: the London premiere was in 1968, some 50 years after the date of composition. The world's dedicatee, Beecham, is held partly responsible. With characteristic candour and gratitude he said that the opera was about three rather dreary people with nothing very much to sing. And he never conducted it.

Frank Corsaro, St Louis's producer, proves the falsity of that. He surrounds the trust stage with a scrim, almost in John Piper style, and projects on that the aspects of nature which suffuse Delius's score and the lives of his principal characters: Niels the poet, Erik the painter and Fennimore the woman they both love. All are ultimately failures, but at least they live within sight of the forests and the fjords, the sunsets and the storms. Corsaro shows us all, perhaps a little too much, but he captures to perfection the soft, rhapsodic mood of Delius's score in the 11 stage "pictures" in which the story, a cross between *Hamlet* and *Elvira Madigan*, is told.

The musical style of *Fennimore* was quite outstanding. Katherine Bouleyn, the lady torn between poet and painter, has a warm, melting soprano coupled with an intensity in her acting which suggests that she could be a mighty impressive *Cori in Postman* next year. St Louis's discovery, Stephen Paulus, whose career is well established now, but his *Niels* takes him a step forward: more particularly because of his growing ability to handle the stage. Christopher Keenen, the pit-handled the

score with affectionate delicacy. It is difficult to imagine a stronger operatic case being made for Delius.

The brutality running through Minoru Miki's *An Actor's Revenge*, another American premiere, could scarcely be farther away from the world of Delius. Bodies, most delicately swathed or symbolised, pile up in the second half as the Actor (an *omnagata*, or player specialising in female roles) avenges his parents' death. But so they do in *Forza, Laceria Sorgia*, or a hundred other operas. Miki's score, which mixes western and eastern instruments, not always successfully to my ears, was commissioned for the English Music Theatre by Colin Graham and had a quartet of performances at the Old Vic before the Arts Council closed the company down — the Vic itself followed later. It is as much a work to be watched as listened to and the air of precision and authenticity in Graham's production suggests that his own time in Japan was very profitably spent.

It does though allow for, and receives, two virtuoso performances from the singing *Omnagata* (Mallory Walker), who tells

his story in the company of his fellow monks (shades of *Curlew River*), and his dancing counterpart (Manuel Alum).

Most of the style in *Le nozze di Figaro* came from the deft conducting of John Nelson. Lou Galtier's production had more vigour than wit and came nowhere near solving the problems of playing the fourth act on a thrust stage. The most interesting member of a solid cast was Elizabeth Knighton as the Countess.

The first scene of *Rigoletto*, in which the Duke of Mantua, Count di Ceppo, appeared to be set in a Mantovan locker-room, where a few ladies had been invited to join in the frolics. Thereafter the level rose only marginally, which was a mighty disservice to Sheri Greenwald, one of America's most attractive and accomplished young sopranos, singing her first *Gilda*. In "Tutto le feste" Miss Greenwald gave a strong hint of just how good she could be in the role in different circumstances.

Rigoletto may well be the last grand opera to be seen at Webster Groves. The all-round success of *Fennimore* and *Revenge* could persuade Richard Gaddes to confine

himself to works which fit his theatre and play the others in another house. He is in the happy position of now being able to carry his audience with him and without the lure of musical lollipops. There are few if any other companies in America which could get away with the Gaddes repertory and so there are virtually no imitators.

Gaddes never reveals in his success. He reckons that he started off an obscure, precocious company which he wanted to model on Glyndebourne. And with productions like *Fennimore* there is more than a glimpse of Sussex. He is under pressure to expand the St Louis operation, but remarks wryly that, although he might be very good at starting small, he is less sure about keeping them under control when they grow. None the less next year the Opera Theatre makes its first visit abroad, to Monte Carlo, with *Die Zauberflöte*. Opera here used to be imported; now it joins

Micheliob and Budweiser on the export list.

John Higgins

Dance

Twyla Tharp

Sadler's Wells

The solo danced by William Whitener at the beginning of *Brubaker's Paganini*, opening Twyla Tharp's season at Sadler's Wells on Tuesday, is one of the most amazing feats I have seen all year. If you want virtuosic tricks, he can provide them: spinning at fantastic speed, soaring suddenly in a high, clear cabriole, holding a fluent arabesque with perfect balance. Equally, he can make the act of sitting down on the floor into a dance step.

To smoothness, the musical phrasing (never duplicating the piano variations but always providing an apt parallel) and the casual perfection of this long, heterogeneous dance are the hallmarks of Tharp's choreography. Whitener's dancing of it would alone be worth an effort to see. And that is just for starters.

What happens, Whitener danced nothing else all evening, but the quality of performance remained exhilaratingly high. The second part of *Brubaker's Paganini* is given to a group of four dancers, intermittently interrupted by a woman soloist, Jennifer Way. Her entries echo Whitener's epic achievement more briefly. Meanwhile, Christopher Uchida and Shelley Freydont, John Malashock and Keith Young, cheerfully undertake partnering so sudden and complex that one is left wondering how they did it, but sometimes even exactly what they did to get so startlingly from here to there.

The only work on this opening programme that had been given in London before

was *The Fugue*, formerly danced by three women, and now given to three men. Tom Rowe, Raymond Kurshals and John Carrara perform its ingenious exercises skilfully, but for me this is the one work of Tharp's whose ingenuity is not fired by imagination.

No lack of imagination, however, in the newest work given, a dance for six women called *Uncle Edgar dyed his hair*. If the title sounds comic, do not come from a folk song, they sound as if they should; the music has been ground down and electrified by Dick Sobush to sound like a scratchy old record. Tone and volume of amplification in that and the *Brubakers*, incidentally, needed attention.

Edgar's transformation apparently inspired by a niece to the Chorus, every dance are in exuberantly crazy entries, generally for two dancers at a time, while others, silhouetted behind gauze, act like escaping shadows. Together with Way, Uchida and Freydont, this dance introduced the remaining members of this brilliant company, Katie Galsner, Shelley Washington and Mary Ann Kellogg.

Kellogg and Washington are prominent in *Ocean's Motion*, a sequence of seven episodes to six Chorus, every dance are the first of them, "Almost Crown" is repeated for the finale. In this, Tharp catches what seems to an outsider, the whole spirit of growing up in America, its understatement from films, books and pop songs, embodying it in dances of fun, sentiment and sometimes passion. She also becomes the first person to choreograph a public-house bang on cue every time.

John Percival

Opera

Peter Grimes

Covent Garden

Britain's first major opera has been one of the glories of the Royal Opera, particularly in the production by Elijah Moshinsky, which has been toured to Italy, the Far East, most recently Paris. The current revival to be filmed later this month for BBC Television.

Moshinsky has been careful to keep his staging fresh and crisp at each revival. The open stage technique reveals, indeed demands such exactitude: "we need all the aids to visual imagination that he can provide, since no church, pub, or moor hall are visible.

Some details look to have been rearranged, the opening of the pub scene, for example, as it was in the original, is now moving into the four-ale bar. A particularly fascinating feature is the individual characterization of the Borough citizens, chorists as well as soloists, in the scene on the strand before the storm, a multitude of incident, and conversation, in village life that all the more emphasizes the vicious mob antagonism later.

There is no danger yet of routine or blurring, or lack of

control. Sir Colin Davis started Tuesday's performance on what seemed a slack rein, perhaps only to heighten the rousing ensembles before, during, and after the storm. The Choral Rehearsal was superbly, the orchestral interludes with mounting poetry and fervour.

The present cast is virtually the one we know and love. Sir Gerald Evans has been ill, and had to give up Balstrode. Norman Bailey, a more thoughtful impersonation, perhaps, but also a bluff man of action; Philip Gelling is a new Ned Keene, jaunty, rather a dandy, thoroughly attractive to the two Nieces of whom Marilyn Hill Smith is new, and delightfully brash (but her top note at the end of the female quartet was not properly audible).

John Tomlinson is now the Hobson, gaunt and obsequious. Patricia Penty's Mrs Sedley, a richly comic study of mutton dressed as lamb, and Forbes Robeson, as the villainous, stand out. There is no doubt, though, that the action centres on Heather Harper's touching Ellen Orford, and ultimately on Jon Vickers's immensely poignant, marvellously sung and impersonated Grimes, a great tragic study.

William Mann

Concert

Philharmonia/Ozawa

Festival Hall

The last panel of the Ozawa concert, triptych unfolded on Tuesday, the colours still moist and live, the Philharmonia still obviously excited and freshly inspired by their visiting master.

Just as the opening *Egmont* Overture was characteristically revitalized, sharp arrows of sound shooting through each phrase, so the *climac* of *La traviata* which made so compelling the partnership last week of Seiji Ozawa and the pianist Ivo Pogorelich was searched out by the orchestra with Yo Yo Ma in Dvorak's *Cello Concerto*.

The work on Tuesday seemed in retrospect a long, warmly romantic song, sensing its end in its beginning as well as more obviously and thematically, its beginning in its end. It was the vocal character and unity of the work that Yo Yo Ma drew out most memorably, even in the rhythmically more incisive, more rough-hewn passages, that sense of lyrical burgeoning and efflorescence that the horn and strings, so tellingly anticipated in the orchestra, the exposition made the music seem at times almost a free improvisation on the score itself.

While the last movement

needed more rhythmic bite, and tension, a stronger sense of form than this approach was able to offer, it reached its apotheosis in the storm movement, less a calm meditation than an impassioned arioso, its tempi almost over-indulgently flexible, yet revealing to the full Yo Yo Ma's strongly focused, immaculately integrated control of timbre and dynamic level through the extremes of register and expressive range.

The breath and exultant optimism which shone out of the cello's climac, statement of the first movement horn tune seemed to reach out towards the spirit of "symphonic optimism" which guided Richard Strauss in his symphonic poem *Also sprach Zarathustra*: both works received their first performances in the same year, 1896.

In its white heat of excitement, its often scorching tempi and distracting richness of detail, it lacked on Tuesday a sense of grandeur, of omniscience and, particularly at the end, of a heroic, stirring ensemble. But in musical and programmatic content (*Zarathustra* visits mankind to revitalize their knowledge and passions, teaches them the ecstasy of dance, and returns to the mountains) it was a fascinatingly appropriate choice for the last concert of Ozawa's series.

Hilary Finch

Theatre

Herself Alone

Old Red Lion

"Scantus Finnegan is from Belfast." The programme says that straightaway, although it is quickly obvious in his writing, which takes its strength from the language of Belfast, and from the personal and political issues of being from Belfast.

A few things should be made clear. Mr Finnegan does not pretend to objectivity. He is fundamentally certain, that the Irish, and the English, and the Irish, his three characters, all women, address themselves to the problem of how best to respond to that war: whether to choose arms and violence in Belfast, whether to flee to London, which "is not England, it's foreign" or, having once fled, whether to return.

They do not live as characters, but rather interact as voices and could be interspersed on the radio with the news items they repeat in their speeches and dialogues: the death of a hunger striker, a new hunger striker taking his place, another killing in Northern Ireland. Julia Pascal's lunchtime production for *Islington's Old Red Lion* animates the voices by dramatically focusing spotlights on the actresses who argue their positions with each other, as Tina Marian does,

present their ideas as direct challenges to the audience. A clinical aspect to the dialogues robs them of humanity. They become too obviously a single mind weighing the arguments and shaping them to frame the convictions of Miss Martin's just-terminated. Edile and homecoming, feminism and patriotism, bounce back and forth between Michele Copey and Frankie Cosgrave who speak of Belfast's distance from the distance of London.

Her presence nullifies the production, in fact makes it a performance rather more than a closed debate, but the medium of the stage never quite seems the natural home for Mr Finnegan's words. He has a dramatic talent, but by confining the drama to language he has limited himself to speech-making and could as well do that at Hyde Park Corner. Miss Pascal's direction is a skilful weakening of debate.

Ned Chaillet

Aldeburgh

ECO/Rostropovich

Snap Maltings/Radio 3

With Britten dead and Sir Peter Pears no longer singing, the Aldeburgh Festival is obviously in the process of losing one identity and looking for another. There is a strange feeling in the air of calm assurance trembling into anxious uncertainty, and not without reason: the whole thing could so easily become merely provincial if it does not find a new focus. (How one wishes that Peter Maxwell Davies could be lured down from his Orkney perch to revitalize the old festival instead of trying to build up a new one...)

However Aldeburgh does happily retain the support of Mstislav Rostropovich, 20 years, and it was his arrival on Tuesday evening that cleared the skies after a patchy few days. It happened at once. In Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir de Florence*, played by a small group of string players from the English Chamber Orchestra, he brought out all the exhilaration in the making of bounding, sonorous music. There was a silky wrench in each imperious chord, a song in every phrase, an exact fit between the conductor's miming and the orchestra's response, whether a zigzag jerk or a swooning crescendo, indeed so much elan was emanating from Mr Rostropovich that one hardly cared about the mediocrity of the playing, the pinched tone of the violins in high register or the slovenliness of the cellos and basses.

The happy match for one of Tchaikovsky's most vital works was Shostakovich's most explicit musing upon death, his Fourteenth symphony which 11 years ago was introduced to the West in this same Suffolk hall, then under the baton of its dedicatee, Britten. As on that occasion the soprano soloist was Galina Vishnevskaya, who sang magnificently, commanding without giving us any gratuitous loveliness to distract us from the sombre matter at hand: mortality, its mystery, its menace and its stupid irrelevance.

As for Stafford Dean, the highest compliment I can pay — well deserved — is that he sounded the true Russian bass in every rounded vowel and liquid consonant, in the feeling of something warm and dark stretching upwards into stark light. He, with justice, took on the burden of subjectivity in the later part of the work, where Shostakovich comes to speak of himself as artist. But here, running right through the music and the performance, was the sternest of certainties: the power of art to survive. About this symphony, at least, there can be no doubt.

Paul Griffiths

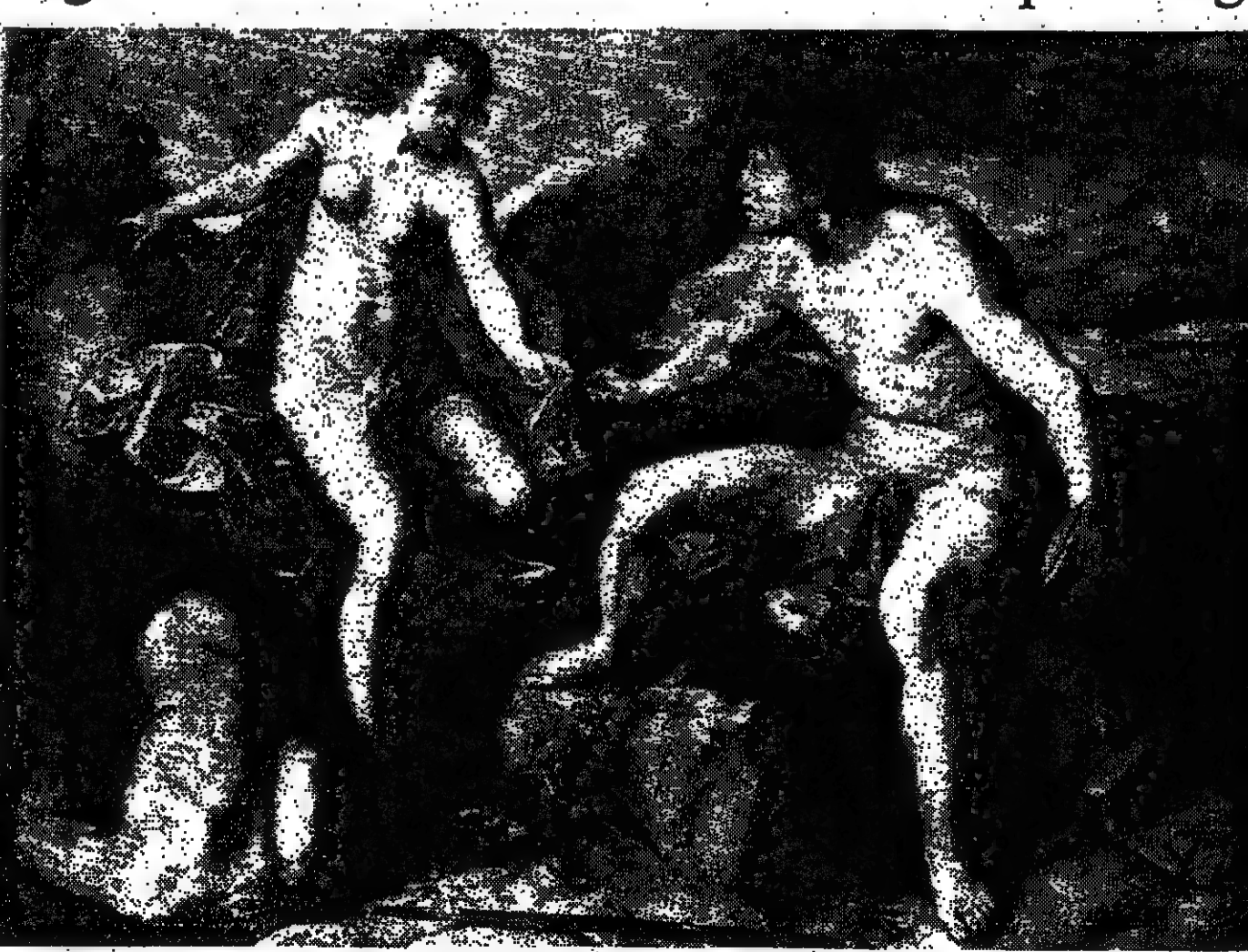
Galleries

Vivid challenge to the common view of Dutch painting

Dutch painting in its "golden age" is generally thought of in terms of the way in which it reflects, daily life and the physical environment which forms its setting: sisters, spotless interiors, inhabited by grave matrons or demure young housewives, sometimes attended by eager but always decorous gallants; contented cows bathed in golden sunlight against a background of meticulously cultivated landscape; lower down the social scale drunken boozers cowering with mountainous wenches in sordid taverns. The exception quoted is of course Rembrandt, who thus "proves the rule".

This view is challenged in a remarkable exhibition at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, which was first presented at the National Gallery in London, Washington, and has also been seen at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Entitled *Gods, Saints and Heroes, Dutch Painting in the Age of Rembrandt*, the exhibition (until July 19) is the achievement of a distinguished international committee which included Christopher Brown from our own National Gallery, and Linda Murray, a Dictionary of Art and Artists. Its standing as the most important type of work that an artist could undertake was promoted by the Academies which, following the example of Florence, founded by Vasari in 1563, proliferated in the succeeding century, notably in Bologna and above all in Paris, where the Academy of Painting and Sculpture was founded in 1648. There the hierarchy of subject-matter was strictly enforced and the superiority of history painting constantly reiterated.

A much more loosely organized and informal academy was formed in Haarlem in 1583, but it does not seem to have lasted for very long. Its most influential member was Hendrik Goltzius (1558-1617), who first achieved an international reputation as an engraver, before turning to history painting in 1600. He is represented in the exhibition by a beautiful *Saint Sebastian* from Munster (unfortunately glazed) and two interpretations of subjects from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, *Venus*



A pagan fall of man: Goltzius's *Juno receiving the eyes of Argus from Mercury*

and *Aionis* and the fiercely dramatic *Juno receiving the eyes of Argus from Mercury* (1615), in which the story of the 100-eyed Argus by Mercury and his presentation of the eyes to Juno, who used them to decorate the tail of the peacock, has a symbolic significance virtually as a pagan fall of man. Also shown is a biblical *Fall of Man* which was painted in 1592 by Goltzius's contemporary Cornelis Cornelisz van Haarlem (1562-1638), for the Prinsenhof in Haarlem, which was the official residence of the Stadtholder when he visited the city.

In the decoration of public buildings the history painter came into his own, as Beatrijs Bremlinkmayer de Rooij points out in her useful contribution to the catalogue. To behold is to be aware: *History Painting in Public Buildings and the Residences of the Stadtholder*. The paintings were a functional element of the rooms in which they hung, and their subjects were chosen as statements on the use of the room and the desired traits of the users or

inhabitants. The most complete surviving example of a seventeenth-century Dutch public building is Amsterdam's colossal Town Hall (now the Royal Palace), designed by Jacob van Campen and begun in 1648. It is magnificently decorated with superb sculptures by Artus I. Quellin and paintings by, among others, Erasmus Quellin, Ferdinand Bol, Govert Flinck and Jacob de Wit, whose exquisite grisaille overdoors are infinitely preferable to his vast miasmic canvas of *Moses selecting the seventy Elders* (1737).

Both Bol and Flinck were pupils of Rembrandt, but Flinck's *Solomon's Prayer for Wisdom* (1659), a composition painted for the Town Hall and represented in the exhibition by an autograph replica (Bob Jones University Collection, Greenville, South Carolina), shows how completely he had liberated himself from his teacher's manner. In the same year he was commissioned to execute 12 further pictures for the same building, but died soon afterwards at the age of 45.

In the work of Ferdinand Bol (1616-80), however, Rem-

brandt's influence persists, even to the extent of direct quotation, as in his *Intrepidity of Fabricius in the Camp of King Pyrrhus* (1956) (Town Hall, Amsterdam), where, as the catalogue notes, the figure in the right-hand bottom corner is taken from the *Hundred Guilders* etching. The sketch in the exhibition, which shows an earlier stage in the composition, belongs to the Amsterdam Historisch Museum which contains much material relevant to the exhibition, including the wooden model for the Town Hall, several terracotta studies for its sculptures by Quellin and an important group of paintings, among them Nicholas Berchem's glowing *Allegory of the expansion of Amsterdam* and Gerard Laressse's *The Maid of Amsterdam receiving the Homage of the World*.

Laressse (1640-1711) brought the influence of French classicism to Amsterdam, through his teacher Bertholet Miemelle, and was important as a theorist as well as a painter, considering that history painting, in addition to its intrinsic merits, somehow enhanced the social

status of the practitioner by a process of transference. Laressse's "aristocratic" manner is exemplified by his graceful *Selene and Endymion*, probably painted for the bedroom of Mary, wife of the Stadtholder William III and daughter of James II of England, whom she and her husband were destined to succeed. The theme, of the unconsummated love of a goddess for a mortal, may seem ironic in the context of their childless marriage, but this can hardly have been intentional.

The editing impact of works of art is also demonstrated by Laressse's brilliant grisaille of *The Iron Age* (1682) (Musée des Beaux-Arts, Orleans), originally one of a set of four that were installed in the marble vestibule of a house on the Kalverstraat. Two other large grisailles from the Rijksmuseum's own collection, an *Allegory of the Arts* and an *Allegory of the Sciences*, are shown ex-catalogue in the auditorium to the exhibition, which also contains a didactic introductory display.

Jeffery Daniels

DAE JOEY ALBURY THEATRE

The remarkable resurrection of Menachem Begin

by Christopher Walker

The most important 40 minutes in Israel's turbulent general election campaign will take place tonight when the two men competing for the post of Prime Minister take part in a televised debate chaired—appropriately, enough—by the doyen of the country's military correspondents.

Supporters of the Prime Minister, Mr Menachem Begin, are looking forward to the confrontation with relief, realising the ease with which their man triumphed in a similar debate before the 1977 poll. Backers of Mr Shimon Peres, the opposition Labour leader, are correspondingly wary, reluctantly acknowledging their candidate's shortcomings as a television performer and his continuing inability to match the fierce rhetoric which has become Mr Begin's political hallmark.

Although Israeli Prime Ministers have always had their personal power checked by the special demands of coalition government, Mr Begin, through sheer force of personality and the strength of his personal following, has succeeded in turning the 1981 election into a clash between two individuals. This tactic has been reinforced by his right wing Likud coalition, which has pursued a relentless campaign against the alleged untrustworthiness of Mr Peres uncannily reminiscent of that once employed in America against Mr Richard Nixon.

One typical advertisement urged Israel's 2,500,000 voters to "elect a credible Prime Minister—or Shimon Peres". Another, spread over a full page in the Hebrew press, contained a prominent quotation from Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the previous Labour Prime Minister, who wrote disparagingly in his autobiography: "I knew Peres, his character and his qualities. I did not believe one word he said." Underneath was a flattering photograph of Mr Peres looking stuffy and the printed challenge "look him straight in the eye—can he be trusted?"

Mr Peres has gone further in public meetings, where the full fury of organized and often violent pro-Begin heckling has been turned against him. The Prime Minister has been labelled a "neo-Fascist", his followers accused of "Khomeinism", and described tauntingly from the platform as "a rabble".

Ironically, as the campaign has become progressively more bitter, the tone of some of Labour's personal attacks against Mr Begin have varied greatly from the 1946 arrest warrant issued for him by the Palestine Police, which described the then leader of the Irgun Jewish terror group as a "type of irresponsible, unscrupulous rebel, striving for personal power".

With some 20 per cent of the volatile electorate still undecided, tonight's debate—in which each candidate will answer identical questions—seems as crucial a determining voting pattern on June 30. But whatever the final result, the campaign has already demonstrated the remarkable powers of political and personal recovery, possessed by Mr Begin, who only five months ago had been written-off as a depressed, introverted and unsuccessful Prime Minister presiding over

150 per cent inflation, a fractious Cabinet and the prospect of imminent electoral defeat. In January, the widely-regarded Jerusalem Post poll was giving his coalition only 24 seats compared with 58 for Labour. In the latest survey (conducted after the destruction of the Baghdad reactor), the roles have been convincingly reversed, with 49 of the Knesset's 120 seats forecast for the Likud, compared with only 37 for Labour.

Mr Begin proudly refers to his personal transformation as "a resurrection", and by a show of energy and resilience which even his closest advisers thought impossible, has managed to defuse public speculation about his often precarious state of health: instead of referring to his long history of serious heart complaints, Israel's new Prime Minister now likes to note that two of the doctors who previously treated him are dead, and a third ill in hospital.

Some bewildered and dismayed liberal journalists have blamed the resurrection for the Prime Minister's revival, but a more convincing explanation is that like other ambitious politicians, he has reserves which are activated by the sudden prospect of reelection against all the odds. "Leading the Israeli people is more than a job for Menachem Begin, it is a mission," explained one official.

With a total of 31 parties ranging from Arab communists to extreme right wing Jewry contesting the poll, the immediate outcome is likely to be anything but clear cut. There has never been a simple majority government in Israel's 33-year history, and the election is likely this time—leading to the prospect of a complex coalition-building process lasting through much of July, and possibly longer. As in 1977, the decisive factor will be the voting preference of the oriental or Sephardi Jews, who now make up over 55 per cent of the population and still suffer from considerable under-privilege.

The overwhelming preference for Mr Begin over Mr Peres among the predominantly blue-collar oriental community is not easy to explain, but is widely agreed to have been the main cause of Israel receiving its first right wing government four years ago.

Of all the theories put forward, the most telling claims that while both rivals were born in Poland, Mr Begin is now regarded simply as a Jew, while Mr Peres—for all his years in the Middle East—is still seen as an Ashkenazi (a Jew of European descent). Although Labour has prompted an Iraqi born woman politician to the prestige second place on its election list, it has still not shaken off the image of the early pioneering days when power was restricted to an elite group of European stock, and Israeli society was based largely on exchange favours.

In few recent elections around the world have the

styles of the main contenders been so sharply contrasted. Mr Peres favours the low-key approach, relying heavily on under-statement and carefully weighing the consequences of his remarks and showing a marked reluctance to go for the jugular over such vital issues as Mr Begin's attitude towards the future of the occupied West Bank and Israel's disastrous economic state. When the campaign histories are published, it will be Labour's failure to focus public debate on the Government's failings in the spheres of economic and social policy which will certainly be singled out for critical analysis.

At the outset of the campaign, Likud's diffident new Finance Minister, Mr Yoram Aridor, stole the thunder from Labour (which had then failed to select its own candidate for the Treasury) by slashing taxes on more than 100 prime consumer products in a reckless

display of "supply side" economics. The momentum was then maintained by Mr Begin's vigorous personal campaigning, the Syrian missile crisis and then the Baghdad raid, which left much rational Labour criticism looking dangerously unpatriotic. The only hiccup in the Likud campaign was the outbreak some two weeks ago of riotous violence and intimidation which has still not been properly controlled.

Senior opposition advisers believe that tonight's TV confrontation will provide Mr Peres with his best chance to halt the pro-Likud trend, which has shown up in every opinion poll published for the past three months. But few are prepared to express any convincing optimism. As one dejected Labour Party campaigner told the Jerusalem Post, "We may not like the favour of the magic, but I wish we could get our hands on the secret formula."

A licence to corrupt?

Ronald Butt

The present Conservative Government may prove to have been good for family business, but it is hard to see what it has done for the family, except to assist in the planning of a disaster. While the great and the good in the Cabinet wrestle with the midlife business of economic and defence policy, we should spare a thought for the lesser ministers with power to influence the happiness of future generations make use of it. Let us see what they have done for the children of the nation, the party's manifesto commitments to extend parents' rights.

Some readers may recall that in February last year I drew attention to an attempt being made by backbenchers in the House of Commons and the Education No. 2 Bill so as to give parents the right to know what their children were receiving, and from what kind of teaching material. The amendment also sought to give parents the right to withdraw their children from such instruction if they came from religious education (where it was offensive to their principles).

Serious disquiet had been growing among many parents who had discovered both the manner and moral overtones of such instruction, and the offensive teaching aids often used. The justification usually given for the tone of this instruction is that it is intended to cater for children who are already in the preferred euphemism, "sexually active". Most people would regard its message as implicitly encouraging other children to be sexually active as well if they wish—provided they use contraceptives and try to avoid pregnancy.

Some of the material which inspired the amendment would be regarded by most normal people as obscene. It uses the language of the gutter, and at least one book widely used in schools introduces children to a sensitive area even to the details of such perversions as bestiality.

Education ministers seem to have been as appalled as most people would be when they saw this material. But the Department of Education refused to countenance the proposed amendment. It was also bitterly opposed by the Family Planning Association, which now concentrates on sex instruction for the young, and by the Brook Advisory Centres which cater for contraception for teenagers.

The ground of the department's resistance was that the amendment would mean altering the 1944 Education Act and might, in theory, lead parents to press to withdraw children from other subjects.

On that ground, Baroness Young, Minister of State for Education, opposed the amendment, although expressing her sympathy with the worries that had provoked it. The fear that thousands of parents would start removing their children from mathematics and geography classes on grounds of principle is not, I confess, one that I find instantly persuasive, but it was enough to move, not only Lady Young, but the sponsors of the amendment, who withdrew it in exchange for various undertakings she gave them.

School governors, she said, should play a part in establishing how the subject was handled, and in seeing that parents' views were taken into account. The Secretary of State's powers to require the publication of certain information would be used to see that local authorities made such information available to parents. Above all, the department would consider issuing guidance on the teaching of the subject.

The way in which the Government has since behaved, far from being in the spirit of Lady Young's bland reassurances, further erodes parents' responsibility. It has been a complete nonsense of her argument that parents only had the

right of withdrawal from religious education because it alone is compulsory in the curriculum, which sex education is not. Everything that the department has since done in encouraging schools to regard sex education also as, *de facto*, compulsory.

In its consultative paper, *A Framework for the School Curriculum*, for January 1980, there already existed one of those vague general statements beloved by officials which make all things possible. It suggested that such subjects as moral and health education should be added to the core. Additionally, under the Education Act 1980, regulations have been made as to the publication of information about sex education, which are increasingly being taken by schools as suggesting that this is an essential subject.

All this provides a licence which the sex-instruction missionaries are not slow to use. The question is whether it will be used as a licence to give them towards a happy future or corrupt.

Meanwhile, the teachers see the bit between their teeth, the sex-kits multiply and a significant number of schools use the teaching material produced by the Brook Advisory Centres and described by an MP as "pornographic". Sir George Young of the Department of Health has also announced at a Brook Advisory Centres conference on the consequences of teenage pregnancy that the Government meant campaign this autumn on contraception for teenagers. It will be under the management of the Health Education Council (which, like the Schools Council, has the Brook's publication on its recommended lists).

In sex teaching, the Government is also going into a kind of partnership with the Brook Centres whose whole ethos encourages and caters for premature relationships of which ministers say they disapprove.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Health, will tell critics of the RPA that it is not that organization but the Brook which worries him. But does not Mr Gerard Vaughan, his Health Minister, from proposing to renew the Brook's grant (some MPs think it will be doubled) in the context of the arrangement by which, as a kind of *quid pro quo*, the education department

has agreed to make the Brook's teaching aids.

Meanwhile, at the DES, Baroness Young does not conceal that she is "very concerned" as some of the material produced by the Brook in the past. (Actually, their particularly nasty sex-aid colour-slides are very much in the present.) But her response to her own anxiety is to bring the department into partnership with the very organization she disapproves of, so that together they can plan sex-education work and teaching aids.

She seems to think that parents will find this reassuring. On the contrary, they should be worried, rather than ever. Despite everything that ministers have seen, despite the material that disgusts Lady Young, they propose to give the Brook Advisory Centres their stamp of approval provided this body continues to produce its products. This the Brook will be obviously pleased to do (if only for a transitional period) because they know that, at the Department of Health, their great prospects depend on their cooperating with the Department of Education.

And so the circle completes itself: children will end up in the Brook clinics for contraceptives or (when they fail) abortions, and ministers will throw up their hands, or wash them, at the statistics. Do these ministers really mind anything apart from keeping their jobs and bagging what their officials and the approved pressure groups tell them?

Archbishops answer back

The Church came under the fire of the inquisitorial arm of the State this week when its leaders faced the rigours of questioning by a Commons select committee of MPs.

All eyes were on the performance of the two Archbishops: Dr Robert Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury, yesterday and Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, on Monday, to see how they would acquit themselves in this latter-day Star Chamber.

The archbishops were giving evidence on secondary school curriculum and examinations, which MPs, under Christopher Price, Labour MP for Lewisham West, are due to report on in the autumn. And this meant a grapple with an issue as why religion was not "number one" in the parade, and what the churches were doing about it; whether religious education and daily worship should be compulsory in schools and the point of teaching Christianity in a multi-ethnic society.

Cardinal Hume battled first and had the advantage that MPs were not quite in their stride; questioning the head of the Roman Catholic Church in Britain was not the same as grilling an obscure civil servant.

Stan Thorne, Labour MP for Preston South, broke the ice. "My wife thinks we should be answering your questions rather than the other way round," he said.

The archbishop immediately launched into an analysis of the problems facing twentieth

century man and the place of religion in society. There was a malaise, a void, a lack of vision, he told MPs, which in the past had been filled by Christianity. This was of all the greater concern because of the "agonising" problems we face: race relations, unemployment, nuclear arms, disparity of wealth.

The MPs let him speak. But yesterday, when it was Dr Runcie's turn, Patrick Cormack, Conservative MP for Staffordshire South-West, launched into the attack. It had taken 27 minutes, he said, for the Archbishop and others giving evidence to mention Christ or Christianity and that, surely, was the "hub" of the issue.

Unruffled, Dr Runcie put down his questioner with the retort that answers were usually flavoured by their questions. Hume handled his questions with gentle persuasion; if discursive logic often splitting his replies into points, one, two and three. He talked of religion being taught by the "deductive" and "inductive" processes; and of how much could be absorbed through "osmosis".

With the reflective manner of a monkish philosopher, he told MPs that present-day problems and the question of what was right and wrong, came down to the fundamental questions of what was morality, and that in turn, to what is man.

By contrast, Dr Runcie consistently came back to personal experience; the experience of his children; grappling with

issues in the media; his own experience learning about the differences between a mosque and a church and the way that had strengthened his faith and understanding; his recent experience in the United States and view of religion there.

Cardinal Hume had given reflection; Dr Runcie gave practical advice. School worship need not only be formal assembly; it could be small groups meeting for prayer, silence or music. And he firmly told MPs there were other ways of putting across the Christian faith other than verbal ones, such as in music, or dance. MPs might dismiss these ideas as "soft-boiled pansy stuff" but it was important to use other methods. We were, he said, in a kind of verbal ice-age.

It was an ice-age Dr Runcie was quite at home in. Impressively articulate, he urged MPs not to be strait-jacketed in their recommendations: fighting for a slot for religious education was less important than what went into it.

Despite differences of approach, the two agreed on fundamentals. The school curriculum should still have a spiritual ingredient and there should also be some kind of worship or religious education. Cardinal Hume put it, to kindle the spark of yearning in everyone for a spiritual life, or, as Dr Runcie said, because man is fundamentally a worshipper and this community ritual is about man's search for God.

Frances Gibb

How herbs could help if the Bomb is dropped

says. Doctors and nurses would not be allowed to enter highly radioactive areas whose people had little chance of recovery.

Community nurses would be needed at casualty clearing centres, where survivors would be screened to prevent any remaining hospitals being overwhelmed. Only patients with a good chance of recovery should be admitted.

With drug production halted and most supplies destroyed, doctors would have to turn to herbal remedies. The document lists almost 100, based on plants from celery to foxglove, skull-caps to comfrey. Under four headings, herbs could provide digitalis for heart conditions, it says: "Collect autumn of first year for main crop... dose 60mg to 100mg of dried powdered leaf."

There is no shortage of voices to say that such planning is pointless. Almost all East Anglia's major hospitals are in cities that would be affected by nuclear blast. Last year, Pughwag Medical Working Group said bluntly: "There is no possible effective medical response after a nuclear attack. In one major city alone, in addition to hundreds of thousands of sudden deaths, there would be hundreds of people with severe burns, trauma and radiation sickness—all demanding intensive care."

With hospitals destroyed, and their staffs dead or injured, power, medical supplies and transport gone, many people would die of infections, fractures and other conditions that in peacetime would be minor.

Medical concerns about the effects of nuclear war appear to be growing. Ten motions calling either for nuclear disarmament or for the public to be told about the effects of nuclear war are on the agenda of the British Medical Association's meeting in Brighton next week. The one most likely to be debated calls on the association to review the value of civil defence.

Dr Richard Kavanagh, of Ipswich, who will propose the motion, says that planning for a nuclear war could lead people to believe unrealistically in their own invulnerability. "The unthinkable is becoming thinkable," he said. Yet East Anglia's own plans "point to the fact that there won't be much left afterwards."

Mr John Edwards, of the East Anglian Regional Health Authority, who drew up the region's document, says: "We have a responsibility to accept the problem and try to provide support for people in the unlikely event of war."

"Experts suggest that many millions of people would be left alive at the end of the first year. It would be wrong to throw up our hands in despair and say we can do nothing."

Nicholas Timmins

"Art Nouveau?" I asked. "Audemars Piguet," she returned, smiling.

Graceful arabesques of gold embraced the flawless face. The miraculously thin case was edged in gold tracery.

She took the watch from my hand and put it on, the finely decorated bracelet encircling her slender wrist as lightly as a silk ribbon.

There was, perhaps, an echo of the romantic movement in its design. But its slim shape was strictly 1980's.

In all, another timeless classic by Audemars Piguet.

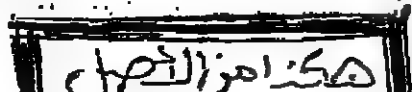
"And you wear it," I teased, "merely to tell the time."

She arched her eyebrows.

"Just as you use the Lalique vase," she countered, "merely to hold flowers."

Audemars Piguet

Illustrated brochure and a list of appointed jewellers is available from Audemars Piguet, 72 Saffron Hill, London EC3N 3RS.



Another hitch on the way to a Turner home

The plans for the new £5m Clara Gallery to house the Turner Bequest on a site adjoining the Tate Gallery have come in for unexpected criticism. This evening the City of Westminster's town planning committee will consider a report calling for extensive reconsideration of parts of the building's design so that it makes "a positive contribution to the character and appearance of the Millbank conservation area".

Ian Lacey, Westminster's planning officer, says in the report that the north-west and south-east elevations are utilitarian and devoid of architectural interest; they comprise unrelieved areas of brickwork with windows, doors and ventilation openings "seemingly arbitrary in their disposition and size".

The Royal Fine Art Commission, which was also consulted, acknowledges "the masterful planning, layout and scale" as a whole but regards the same elevations as unworthy of the rest of the scheme. The commission also hopes that the architect, James Stirling, will have "proper regard for the roofscape", which will be "visible from many of the surrounding higher buildings".

The Government's Property Services Agency, which is administering the scheme, is under no obligation to follow the advice offered by either Westminster or the Commission. However, I understand that Stirling is willing to reconsider those parts of the design under attack.

Cuts and thrust

Defence Ministry officials say that John Nott's defence review, which will be announced to the Commons

THE TIMES DIARY

Fresh from his plunge into the *Solent*, earlier this week, Mr Henry VIII's warship *Mary Rose*, Prince Charles is to make a positive contribution to the £3m project aimed at raising the ship.

The Prince, who is president of the *Mary Rose* Trust, has agreed to the sale of a limited print of Ben Mallet's oil painting of the vessel, which the artist presented to him in London last February.

The trust hopes to raise more than £50,000 from the scheme, which will

be launched at a ceremony at the Mansion House in the City next week. Some 465 signed copies of the print will be sold for £135 each and a further £330 the artist will add a sketch to the margin.

Sounds like a good investment. Mallet, who lives in Cornwall, has been involved in a number of successful print ventures, one of the best being taken from his painting *The Thin Red Line*, a scene from the *Battle of Waterloo*. Some of his other early prints, which originally sold for less than £50, now fetch £600.

His paintings (the Queen has one in her private collection) fetch up to £4,000.

"Why the hurry?" They think Nott needed to complete the review before the end of the summer session in case he is made Chancellor of the Exchequer in Mrs Thatcher's autumn reshuffle, when Sir Geoffrey Howe would take over the Treasury. Somebody of milder disposition and less intellectual clout could then come in to pick up the pieces.

Sauce Hollandaise

Just as the World Congress of Sexology in Jerusalem is providing Israelis with welcome relief from their general election, so Miss Xaviera Hollander, author of *Confessions of a Happy Hooker*, is a welcome change among the 800 sexologists, gynaecologists and psychiatrists who have spent most of their time listening to papers with titles like "The Sexual Content of Graffiti in some educational institutions in Quebec."

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Which unacceptable fact of capitalism do you actually swallow today?



Yesterday Miss Hollander gave a paper—well, more earthy and improbable personal experience in which she said that fear and danger can lead to sexual pleasure of a kind achieved by more conventional means. Such was the enthusiasm to hear that the lecture was switched to a larger hall. The Israelis, especially, were amused by her theme.

Earlier, the ubiquitous Miss Hollander infiltrated a reception given by the Israeli President, Mr Yitzhak Navon. During the gathering, President Navon's official business style is "halfway between Zane Grey and Ernest Hemingway". There must be no bureaucracy. Words like "please" are out. So are phrases like "this moment in time". Good to have this sort of thing concretized.

the congress, Miss Hollander has hogged the limelight. After an exhaustive list of questions about her life, a man from the Washington Post asked her who made the best lovers. "The English, of course," she replied, to his obvious disappointment.

Golden grapes

Perhaps it was the fire raging out of control in California's wine-growing area, but the first case of the 1979 "Napa-meloid" wine, produced jointly by Baron Rothschild and Robert Mondavi, has been sold for a staggering \$24,000—\$2,000 a bottle. There were gasps from the audience in a marquee at St Helena, north of San Francisco, as Michael Broadbent of Christie's took the case past its expected \$3,000, past \$10,000 and up and up. The price was all the more surprising since Mondavi had refused to hold a tasting beforehand. The lucky of that is the right word—bidding was Charles Mara, who will sell it in Greenhills liquor supermarket in Syracuse, up-state New York.

Brief brief

President Reagan would approve of this item. It consists of short sentences. It uses only short words. None is new-fangled.

There is a campaign in Washington for simpler English. Malcolm Baldrige, Secretary for Commerce, has sent round a memo admonishing civil servants. He says they must use plain English in official business. Short words. Short sentences. Proper style is "halfway between Zane Grey and Ernest Hemingway". There must be no bureaucracy. Words like "please" are out. So are phrases like "this moment in time". Good to have this sort of thing concretized.

Peter Watson



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HISTORY MADE EASY

The French Communists have entered government with more of a whimper than a bang. The looming threat which they seemed to represent only four years ago has shrivelled away. They come now as suppliants, much reduced by severe losses at the polls. Whereas in 1977 they broke the union of the left because they could not stomach the thought of being junior partners they are now ready to accept an even more junior status on terms almost wholly dictated by president Mitterrand. An historic event which might have sent tremors throughout Europe is now being greeted in most capitals with little more than a shrug of the shoulders.

This is first of all a tribute to the consistent tactics of Mitterrand. He was much criticized for entering the union of the left, especially after it fell apart, but he persevered in believing that the only way to win voters away from the Communists was to play fair, to demonstrate constant readiness for cooperation so that any breach remained clearly the responsibility of the Communists themselves. He did not want floating voters on the outer fringes of the Communist Party to feel that he was merely trying to steal their votes in order then to kick the party in the teeth. He had to provide an honourable bridge for them to cross.

This is one reason why he felt obliged to invite the Communists into the Government. He

won with their votes and their support. It would have been inconsistent as well as discommoding. He had not wanted to avoid driving them into resentful opposition. They still have a significant capacity to make trouble, especially through their control over the CGT, which is the largest labour federation in the country. When things begin to go wrong for the Government they may still decide to pull out and exploit their strength, but at least they will clearly carry full responsibility for their decision. President Mitterrand will remain the man who tried honourably to keep the left together.

Meanwhile the terms of the agreement between the parties show just how careful President Mitterrand is being. He has tied the Communists into total loyalty not just in the cabinet but right the way down through municipalities and trade unions to the shop floor. This means that they cannot remain in the Government while conducting guerrilla warfare against it at all levels. They must share full responsibility or leave. It is a measure of their eagerness to taste power that they accepted this along with a policy of much steeper domestic change than they themselves propagated.

They have also made some very conspicuous concessions on foreign policy, including a complete about face on Afghanistan. Whereas until now they have defended Soviet intervention they now demand the

withdrawal of Soviet troops. On Poland, too, they diverge from the Soviet line in that they describe what is going on there as a "process of economic, social and democratic renewal" which the Polish people should be free to decide for themselves. They also support the Camp David agreement, which the Soviet Union denounces, and express support for France's alliances and her active participation in the European Community.

President Mitterrand has had close contacts with Communists since his time with the resistance movement against Nazi occupation. He knows them well enough not to trust them and he is now strong enough not to have to trust them. They have accepted his terms and if they break them he can manage on his own.

This is what makes for reassurance among France's allies. There is, of course, a danger that the respectability conferred on the French Communists by cabinet posts will strengthen their standing and rub off on other European Communist parties as well. A kind of taboo has been broken when Communists enter the government of a major European state.

But the real significance of what has happened in France is that the Socialists have drastically overtaken the Communists as the main force on the left. If Italy is influenced it could be as much by this as by the arrival of Communists in government.

THE PENSION TRAP

There has been a considerable expansion of occupational pension schemes during the postwar years. Just over half the employees in the United Kingdom are now serving members of such schemes, according to a report published yesterday by the Occupational Pensions Board. In itself, that is excellent. Occupational pensions can be tailored, better than any state scheme, to suit the needs of different kinds of employment. They also provide a vital source of investment. So the principle of occupational schemes ought to be encouraged for both social and economic reasons.

In practice, however, many of them are far from adequate, and there is no merit in a bad pension, whoever is kind enough to provide it. Some occupational pensions were never very generous, but much of the trouble comes from the failure to cope with inflation. This has caused particular dissatisfaction with many purchase schemes, in which benefits are related directly to the accumulated value of contributions. Each pound contributed purchases so many pence of pension entitlement. But unless the value of such entitlements is updated to take account of inflation, the effect is that contributions are paid in today's money and benefits are received in the day after tomorrow's depreciated coinage.

Very few money purchase schemes have kept up the contributions in line with inflation. So it was thought to be progressive,

and did indeed become fashionable, to introduce a final salary scheme, in which the size of pension is related to a person's earnings in his last year — or, more often, his last few years — before retirement, and the number of years he has been in the scheme. Over ninety per cent of serving members now belong to final schemes.

But in seeking to correct one injustice, another has been created. A final salary scheme does, indeed, counter the effects of inflation during a person's service with a particular employer. It is liable, however, to penalize him harshly for changing jobs. In only a minority of cases is there provision for pension entitlements to be transferred when a person moves from one employer to another. The more frequent practice is for the first scheme to pay a deferred pension when the person concerned reaches retirement age. But unless the value of that pension is preserved in real terms, the total pension he will ultimately receive will be much less than if he had stayed where he was.

It is rare for a deferred pension to be fully preserved in real terms. So the total effect of the occupational pension system, which is so desirable in principle, is to provide a strong disincentive to a great many people changing jobs. This is to "create an industrial straitjacket" in an economy which requires much greater mobility of labour. It is a disincentive to individuals and damaging to the national interest.

This is the problem that the

Occupational Pensions Board has tried to resolve in its report, *Improved Protection for the Occupational Pension: Rights and Expectations of Early Leavers*. But its conclusions are disappointingly timid. The board has been deterred from recommending compulsory transferability by the technical complexities. These are certainly formidable, but they should not be tamely accepted as insurmountable. This should be merely an academic argument, however, if the report made adequate proposals for preserving the value of deferred pensions.

Unfortunately, the best it can offer in this field is to improve the arrangements now applying to those schemes which are now contracted out of the earnings-related part of the state scheme, so that all deferred pensions would have to be updated by at least five per cent a year. But who believes that inflation will be kept to that level?

Full preservation might admittedly be expensive. But there are three answers to that. It would be better to reduce the value of nominal benefits if that is the price of removing this injustice. It would be better for some weak schemes to be wound up, if they cannot offer adequate benefits to all their members, rather than fail to improve the rest. Finally, the unions must recognise that if they want to bring pensions up to a proper standard without bankrupting employers, they must make allowances for the cost in wage bargaining. But the task is not impossible and it is urgent.

BUDGETARY REFORM AT BRUSSELS

The policies of the European Community are not decided by the Commission. But the Commission's proposals are the first step in the process which leads to a decision, and they usually form the basis for subsequent discussions. So it is all to the good that in the proposals published yesterday, on the important subject of reform of the Community budget, they recognized Britain's continuing difficulties and outlined ways in which they could be resolved.

The proposals will now be discussed at the summit conference in Luxembourg next Monday and Tuesday — though inconclusively, because President Mitterrand has asked for more time to prepare his Government's position — not to mention Italy, Ireland and the Netherlands which have only caretaker Governments. The following day, July 1, Britain will take over the presidency and will be doing all it can to bring about an agreement in the issue by the end of the year.

The basic problem is one that has dogged Britain ever since it became a member of the Community: the fact that very largely because of the overwhelming predominance of agricultural spending in the budget, and because Britain itself has a relatively small farming sector which can benefit from it, it finds itself a heavy net contributor. The problem is further

exacerbated by the surpluses that have accumulated, which are expensive to store. And these are after a long and bitter battle. Britain's partners recognised its special situation last year and agreed to reduce the burden. But it was only a temporary solution, and the Commission's proposals are intended to provide the basis for a permanent arrangement, which should mean that this issue will not continue to recur year after year.

At present, the Community budget is, besides, no longer a purely British problem. West Germany, which has long been the largest net contributor to the budget, and which agreed to increase its contribution even further as part of the agreement with Britain last year, has announced that enough is enough and that it wants a limit set on what it has to pay. And there is added urgency from the prospect of entry of Spain and Portugal, which will place further burdens on the budget.

In their proposals, the Commission have acknowledged Britain's predicament and suggested two methods which, together, should resolve it. The first is a continuation of a system of rebates along the lines of the one now in operation, and an arrangement by which the countries which gain most from the common agricultural policy should forego some of their

gains, which would go to zones beyond the parish boundaries and our own particular cultural setting.

Not the least of the advantages is the opportunity for both parties to experience in a fairly direct manner a different style of ministry and organization — learning by doing and by sharing, rather than exhortation.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD TAYLOR,
St. Matthew's Vicarage,
53 Stanhope Road,
Croydon,
Surrey,
June 18.

Inner-city churches

From the Reverend R. Taylor and the Reverend Father Donnelly, C.A.
Sir, I write in connection with the suggestion (June 18) made about the "winning" of suburban and inner-city churches. During the past year our two churches have been developing active links with each other — St. Andrew's is a suburban church in central Croydon and St. Mary's, Newington, is an inner-city church near the Elephant and Castle.

So far we are exploring links between the parishes in the areas of prayer, worship and joint social

events as our two parishes become familiar with one another. Already after a relatively short time we are beginning to see solid benefits in mutual understanding and have learnt a good deal from one another. At present we are in the early stages of developing this "link parish" idea, but we would be very interested to hear from others attempting similar experiments. Our two churches have different traditions and styles of ministry for worship and the opportunity for persons and community growth seem to be very considerable. Once the initial links have been formed, it encourages us to widen our hori-

zons beyond the parish boundaries and our own particular cultural setting.

Not the least of the advantages is the opportunity for both parties to experience in a fairly direct manner a different style of ministry and organization — learning by doing and by sharing, rather than exhortation.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD TAYLOR,
St. Matthew's Vicarage,
53 Stanhope Road,
Croydon,
Surrey,
June 18.

Civil Service compromise

From Professor Sir Henry Phelps Brown

Sir, The intransigence of each party to the Civil Service dispute is intelligible. The trade unions have been obliged of their very nature to resist the unilateral withdrawal of an established procedure. The Government has been obliged by financial constraints to pay less than the established procedure would have yielded. But a settlement reached simply by the breaking down of either side would be harmful: either pay would have been pushed up by disruption, or the loyalty of many civil servants would be shaken.

But the two sides could yet meet on middle ground was suggested in the letter by Professor H. A. Turner in your columns of June 10. The Government would restore the established procedure for the current year, but the unions would agree that payment of the excess over 7 per cent of the rises indicated by the procedure should be deferred.

In doing this the Government would recognize that in withdrawing from an established procedure without allowing time for working out a new one, it has departed from good industrial relations practice. The trade unions would recognize that all procedures are subject to review from time to time, that this one has been suspended before during drives against inflation, and that the Government had imposed the present limit as part of such a drive.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY PHELPS BROWN,
16 Bradmore Road,
London N16 7JL,
June 23.

From Mr E. W. Clark

Sir, The strikes of civil servants at Companies House is now in its sixteenth week and has made it impossible to carry out company searches throughout this time. Only two years ago a similar strike lasted over nine weeks.

I am a self-employed company search agent, carrying out searches mainly for solicitors, and have had my earnings reduced to some 15 per cent of normal for this period. Being self-employed, I am not entitled to unemployment benefits, but I read that some union members are prepared to carry on the strike until Christmas — naturally they will receive substantial strike benefits.

I am a strike hurting anyone but people like myself and my customers? Do the civil servants think that we will get them higher pay?

Yours faithfully,
E. W. CLARK,
76 Grove Road,
Thornton Heath,
Surrey,
June 23.

Claims to honour

From Mr P. Livingston Armstrong
Sir, It was enlightening to contemplate (June 13) the Precursor of Christ Church in dispute with a distinguished Field Marshal (Lord Carver, feature, June 8) over "his duty as a professional soldier of this century".

If to the necessary attributes we have to add that of remaining a human being, and remembering that "who rules his spirit is greater than he who takes cities", the position of Alan Brooke seems above question, alike on the field and in his higher direction.

Apart from Monty's own, typically forthright view, in support of "Archie", Bryant quotes Alan Brooke's selfless services for so long in that wonderfully successful "partnership in genius" with Winston Churchill were surely unique.

In any century of Britain's long history in which such a brilliant political leader, so steadfast in parliamentary democracy, has been so ably served and supported by an understanding military competence?

Yours, etc.,
P. LIVINGSTONE ARMSTRONG,
1771 Fitchy,
Switzerland,
June 19.

Point of qualification

From Mrs Betty Byers Brown
Sir, Why, I wonder, was speech therapy selected as an example in your second leader, "Jobs for the future" (June 12)?

The mention is singularly infelicitous since it reflects ignorance of the subject, the prerequisites for its study and the fact that the majority of its practitioners are female. There is no need to dwell on the male chauvinistic element, which is trivial, but the other errors should be corrected.

The intellectual content of a course leading to a licence to practise as a speech therapist needs to be high as consideration of the nature of speech will show. Speech is not a simple act; it is a complex act, governed by a number of physiological and psychological processes. In order to understand the nature of speech breakdowns and ameliorate its effects students must be equipped to understand the nature of these processes and the linguistic rules of the community in which we live. It is therefore fitting that they are now able to study alongside students of other disciplines which require diagnostic and social judgment, for example, medicine.

We are fortunate in being able to recruit students who have no difficulty in obtaining the three good grades at A level, which entitle them to enter for a course of study leading to a licence to practise. We are equally fortunate in being able to persuade good graduates to enter a profession where there is a major demand for their services; a profession which is subject to considerable emotional and intellectual demands and which still suffers, as you leader shows, from misunderstanding as to its nature and the nature of the handicapped population which it serves.

Yours faithfully,
BETTY BYERS BROWN,
Department of Audiology and Education of the Deaf,
The University,
Manchester,
June 19.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keeping the balance in defence spending

From General Sir David Fraser

Sir, Few days go by without the public, or your readers, being addressed on the importance of the Royal Navy, in anticipatory protest at forced reductions in spending on that service. I agree with the general line taken, although a few of the arguments used are, I believe, unconvincing in modern conditions. But they do not persuade the more who suggest that the defence of Europe on land is a less essential priority for this country.

Lord Mottistone, for instance, (June 23) asks whether we are making the best contribution to Nato by spending "over 40 per cent of our annual defence budget in helping defend 40 miles of the German central front and the central region of Europe" with the implication that compared to the value of the Navy this is a waste of money. Others have suggested that, in war, a Soviet European offensive, because of a tactical policy, is less likely than the attrition of merchantmen carrying essential supplies; again, the implication is that if we look after the sea the land will look after itself, or be looked after by others.

Unfortunately, this is not so. We have been here before disastrously. The policy of deterrence requires a strong conventional defence capability in Europe, just as it requires a sufficient nuclear balance, and the protection of transatlantic traffic. And the defence of Europe is the defence of Britain — but more economically discharged than by later-day attempts to make an island fortress. It is a direct British interest to contribute to this defence capability in Europe, both in terms of assisting to prevent aggression, and because failure in Europe would immediately place the homeland at risk. As to the argument that the Soviet Union could attain an object with less hazard by maritime action and by sundering fast on land — it might be the object of any war to strategic, economic, ideological — are on land, and I do not find the scenario of an armed truce in Europe while the Soviet navy threatens us a particularly compelling one. Nor is it inexpensive: the European nations, including our own, could hardly fail to maintain or strengthen their guard against aggression, the confidence that the Soviet Union had decided to play a different game.

It has been a recurrent dream of British Governments in the past that Britain could "eat à la carte" in the matter of the continental commitment of her army and the sort of Army that commitment implied. The dream has been twice shattered in living memory with frightful danger ensuing, and with nation and army helped into aggression.

Since 1949 we appear to have

learned the lessons of history, at least more than hitherto. It would be tragic if, in a perfectly understandable search for sharper priorities when resources are scarce, champions of land or maritime capability thought to find advantage in disparaging the importance of the other. It is an uncomfortable truth that when times are dangerous Britain needs both and has, therefore a prime interest in a contribution to both sufficient to ensure significant influence in the counsels of the Alliance.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID FRASER,
Vallendar,
Isington,
Alton,
Hampshire,
June 23.

From Rear-Admiral Morgan Giles

Sir, Captain Stephen Roskill probably has a better perspective about naval matters than anyone else in the country. So it was to be expected that his arguments (June 22) against cutting the surface Fleet would be absolutely compelling.

However, I do not agree with his emotional remarks against Mrs Thatcher and her Government. There is a genuine dilemma to be solved over defence expenditure; and in any case it always seems to me irrational to vote for (or against) any one single issue, however important.

Admittedly Royal Navy ships, like so much defence equipment, have become excessively sophisticated and expensive; they are in my experience usually over-manned; the royal dockyards are in no way cost-effective, etc. But the true cost of defence (all three Services) has been squeezed and fudged by successive governments, and the Cabinet is not wrong to face up to the problem now.

However, one must question the wisdom of proposals to cut an already existing surface Fleet, and apparently replace it by building more very sophisticated and very expensive "hunter killer" nuclear submarines. This plan seems to take us back to the disastrous 1957 White Paper all over again. Surely Mr Keith Speed should not have been sacked for pointing this out.

The crucial matter is to possess balanced forces, and a balanced Fleet, which can deal with small incidents wherever and whenever they occur, and prevent them becoming large crises. In other words the defence forces must be suitably equipped for preventing wars — not solely for fighting them.

Yours faithfully,
MORGAN GILES,
Upon Park,
Surrey,
June 23.

Choice of schools

From Mr Rodney Dingle
Sir, As one who taught for over 17 years in a public school and who for the past 10 has been teaching in a good West Country comprehensive, I read Frank Fisher's energetic defence of the private sector today (June 11) with a certain interest. I share his distaste for recent left-wing proposals for outright abolition, but I do not believe he serves his cause by scare-mongering whether public schools perpetuate, albeit inadvertently, deplorable social divisions, let us concentrate on the purely educational aspect of the question as it affects the nation as a whole.

I know that state education is ill-funded and operates in conditions woefully inferior to those enjoyed by the private sector. I believe that the very existence of the public schools contributes to this, and am confirmed in this belief by the lack of urgency in working towards a fairer deal for the majority. Therefore, and with some reluctance, I conclude that Mr Fisher's "freedom of choice" is highly questionable if not downright bogus.

I join him in hoping that we never become "the only country in the free world in which it is illegal to run a private school". Will he in return devote some of his energy and enthusiasm towards improving the present situation, in which we are the only country in the free world whose state education is so markedly in comparison with the privileged minority interests?

Yours faithfully,
RODNEY DINGLE,
Hope Cottage,
Higher Shapter Street,
Tosham,
Exeter,
June 11.

Strain on charities

From Major General R. B. Loudoun
Sir, Nicholas Binton's letter (June 19) was timely and will be welcomed by charities generally.

Charities today are big business, handling in excess of £2,500m annually. For effective stewardship they must, like any business, employ professional staff and work with reasonable working conditions and equipment. This costs money and with current inflation it is difficult to prevent overheads becoming an increasing percentage of a charity's income.

Despite recession those who fund charities continue to be generous and responsible in their giving. A growing number of

commercial organizations support charities in kind rather than in cash. Premises, office machinery, furniture, printing and even staff provided in kind are all of immense value to a charity and help significantly to cut its overheads. Would that more companies should help in this way.

Let me be misunderstood, may I pay tribute to the vast number of people in this country who give their time unselfishly to charitable work. Without them the money raised would be sterile.

Yours faithfully,
BOB LOUDOUN,
Director, Mental Health Foundation,
8 Hallam Street, W1,
June 19.

Unprotected Giotto's

From Mr James Watson
Sir, On a recent visit to the Scrovegni Chapel in Padua I was dismayed to see avoidable damage to what must rate among Europe's greatest masterpieces. The chapel contains frescoes by Giotto and is rightly a mecca for lovers of Renaissance art.

Unfortunately the chapel's treasure is not, in my view, protected as it ought to be. A heavy wooden door leads directly into the chapel. With each opening of the door, in leaps the Italian sunshine (blest it) and cuts like an axe down the frescoes nearest the entrance. The result is considerable fading, indeed such fading that soon the images will not be discernible.

The counter staff in the Scrovegni have obviously grown weary of reminding visitors to close the door behind them. Thus for long periods

the door is left wide open. It is astonishing that such a treasure house does not even have a notice on the door requesting the public to close it; worse still, the door does not have a handle on the outside — so 90 per cent of visitors, when leaving, make no attempt to close out the destructive sunlight.

The Scrovegni Chapel is not a very distinguished piece of architecture and its simple facade would not be spoiled by the erection of a porch to protect the Giotto's from further assault.

May I, through your columns, appeal to responsible authorities in Italy to take action before at least two of the Giotto frescoes are sunshined into oblivion?

Yours truly,
JAMES WATSON,
Flat B2, Vale Towers,
28 London Road,
Tunbridge Wells,
Kent.

Beyond the pale at Wimbledon

From Mr Donald Paterson
Sir, Any sport whose rules and tournament organization permit a player to insult publicly a senior official without disqualification must be in need of reform.

It would not happen in football. Why should it be permitted in tennis?

Yours sincerely,
DONALD PATERSON,
The Little House,
Langfield Road,
East Grinstead,
West Sussex,
June 23.

From Mr E. A. Simonis
Sir, Watching the McEnroe match on television, it was obvious without doubt that some of the linesman's decisions were wrong. Whilst not excusing his behaviour, it does give some justification.

My conclusion is that the linesmen are too near the ground for the best view, and though probably not needing to be as high as the television cameras, my suggestion is that each should be placed on a small platform, possibly only nine to 15 inches in height. Such a proposal does not interfere with the rules of the game and if it prevents only a few of the worst scenes (report, June 23) it would be well worth a trial.

Yours faithfully,
E. A. SIMONIS,
14 Fraycott Avenue,
Kenton,
Middlesex,
June 23.

From Miss D. K. Kirkpatrick
Sir, You disgust me. Evil and outrageous activities appear to guarantee the perpetrator his photo on your front page (latest example McEnroe, in duplicate June 23). Are you aware of the bank notes and responsibility that you and the rest of the media bear, by this publicity, for the present lamentable decline in social behaviour? Equally, publicity given to IRA activities amounts to public complicity.

Yours truly,
D. K. KIRKPATRICK,
Moorside,
Cricket Hill,
Yateley,
Hampshire,
June 23.

The Midas touch

From the Director General of the Royal National Institute for the Blind
Sir, We were sorry to hear of Mrs Myscog's mother's difficulties (June 19) with her bank notes and have sent her the Royal National Institute's little gauge (free to blind people from the address below).

The gauge is a convenient way of measuring the size, and therefore the value, of bank notes. The Bank of England does consult RNIB about currency design, and British bank notes (unlike for instance, US currency) differentiate value by size.

Yours faithfully,
E. J. VENN,
Royal National Institute for the Blind,
224 Great Portland Street, W1,
June 19.

From Mrs I. A. Richards
Sir, I was interested in your Netherlands suggestion (June 19) of raised dots on some guilder notes for the benefit of the blind.

The Swiss do likewise. I wrote to the banking authorities some four years ago suggesting we also do this. They replied that in practice these notes were out more rapidly.

Yours truly,
D. E. RICHARDS,
Wentworth House,
2 Chesterton Road,
Cambridge,
Midsummer Day.

'Queen's corporal'

From Mr J. H. Moore
Sir, Doubtless the regret expressed by Colonel Naylor (June 22) at the absence of the rank of Queen's corporal will be tempered for the many other old soldiers he mentions by their delight in seeing this legend revived once more, especially when it has been resurrected by a colonial (no less) in the columns of The Times.

Those who will not share their joy will be the many editors of regional magazines and Sunday newspapers who will probably be faced with the task of depicting this myth "once and for all" but all unimpaired time.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES H. MOORE,
5 Chesterton Road,
Cambridge,
Antinus.

Fabulous performances

From Mr Ronald Hooberman
Sir, I see advertised in The Times today (June 20) a forthcoming recital to be given at the Royal Albert Hall by Sviatoslav Richter, "the legendary pianist".

Future attractions perhaps: Orpheus on lyre (acc. E. Kopylov), and as a change from 18th c. fireworks: Nero fiddling while Rome burns? What chance an Arts Council grant?

Yours etc.,
RONALD HOOBERMAN,
14 Rothwell Street, NW1.

Ancient and modern

From Mr J. T. Newton
Sir, Although The Times has been resting, I'm glad it still has some affinity with ancient standards now revived. And even "Sundays after Trinity" I feared The Times would bend the knee.

And loved traditions would be lost To genuflect to ASB With "Sundays after Pentecost". [Church services, June 20]

Yours faithfully,
J. T. NEWTON,
Croindene,
3 Battledown Drive,
Chesham,
Gloucestershire,
June 20.

Business News

THE TIMES June 25 1981

Ironfounders' battle to survive, page 21

Setting a price for money, page 21

Stock markets
FT Index 548.4 up 3.9
FT Gilt 66.24 down 0.24

Sterling
\$1.9800 down 190 points
Index 95.6 down 0.5

Dollar
Index 107.9 up 0.3
DM 2.3757 up 185 pts

Gold
\$461.50 down \$4

Money
3-mth sterling 124.124
3-mth Euro \$ 177.474
6-mth Euro \$ 174.164

IN BRIEF

Sterling drops sharply

The pound fell steeply against a strong dollar on foreign exchange yesterday, dropping 190 points to close at \$1.98. It also lost ground against Continental currencies including the Deutsche mark, and its trade-weighted exchange rate index slipped 0.5 to 95.6.

The dollar gained 185 points on the Deutsche mark, which was weakened by renewed concern over Poland and dragged down by a depressed French franc after the appointment of four communist ministers in the new government. It ended London trading at DM 2.3757.

Despite significant Bank of France intervention and interest rates on franc deposits as high as 23 per cent, the franc slumped close to its floor against the Deutsche mark within the European Monetary System. The principal beneficiary of capital outflows from France was the Swiss franc which touched its highest levels against the German and French currencies since autumn 1978.

Money meeting off

The meeting called by the Prime Minister with leading monetarist economists, supporters of changes in Government monetary policy, will not take place today as planned, says Professor Alan Milner, from the United States, who was to have joined economists from the City University Banking Centre and Professor Alan Walters. Mrs Thatcher's special economic adviser, could not attend.

ECI investment

Equity Capital for Industry has invested £958,000 in a new company, Castleridge Investments, formed to buy RSC, the Southampton-based makers of potato crisps and biscuits. ECI investment is through a consortium led by Barclays Development Capital and includes Prudential Assurance.

Satellites denied

British Telecom and British Aerospace have denied reports published yesterday that they are about forming a consortium to launch and operate a European business satellite. All parties acknowledge that talks have taken place, but deny that any partnership is envisaged at this stage.

South Wales jobs

Three Scandinavian companies are to set up factories in South Wales which will eventually provide 100 jobs. The companies, which are water-treatment equipment, disposable hygiene products and goods in high quality stainless steel.

M & S textiles pledge

Mark & Spencer yesterday pledged its continuing support for the United Kingdom textile industry. About 200,000 jobs in the industry depend on M & S continuing investment, and more than 90 per cent of the company's fashion goods are made in Britain.

£1m Spode plan

Royal Worcester Spode is to invest £1m in a 30,000 sq ft development at Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, incorporating potting shops and raw material storage space.

Summer coal boom

Coal sales are booming this summer thanks to price cuts introduced to help reduce stockpiles, the Solid Fuel Advisory Service says. Coal users can save £5 a ton on house coal and £7 on smokeless coal up to the end of July.

Aluminium output

Aluminium production totalled 1,066,000 tonnes last month compared with 1,067,000 tonnes in May 1980, according to the International Primary Aluminium Institute.

Wall Street lower

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 7.33 points down at 999.33. The S&P 500 was 1.5783. The £ was 5.582937.

Cash call of £17m to recharge flat Chloride

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Chloride Group, the world's leading rechargeable battery manufacturer, shocked the stock market yesterday by asking shareholders for nearly £18m at the same time as announcing a £32m turnaround from £18.7m profit to losses of £13.5m before tax.

Poor results had been widely expected after Chloride reported a £5.1m interim loss and passed its dividend last November and earlier this year dismissed its chief executive.

The loss for the full year to March 31, which reached £22.5m at the net level, was only a little worse than feared. But the news of the rights issue, of 7.5 per cent convertible preference shares of £1 to raise £17.3m net, came as a complete surprise. Chloride shares tumbled from 34p to 26p at one point but later recovered to close at 27p yesterday.

Sir Alastair Pilkington, chairman, said that the company's results were appallingly bad by any standards but he denied that Chloride had been forced into raising capital by its bankers. Instead, the rights issue was being made at the company's initiative.

He said that during the financial year the financial position had been weakened, particularly by problems arising from the recession in Europe and the United States.

Development of a new type of battery to replace the traditional lead acid had reached an advanced stage at Lucas Industries, research centre at Shirley, West Midlands, Clifford Webb writes.

The All-Party Group for Energy Studies, comprising representatives from Parliament and organisations interested in long-term energy studies, were shown the nickel-zinc battery yesterday. Members were impressed with the possible impact on electric vehicle development by the Lucas-Chloride EV Systems Company, which is backed by a £5m Government grant.

Lead acid battery weight accounts for half an electric vehicle's weight. A light replacement would permit either a substantial reduction in weight, or an increase in the 60 to 70-mile range between charges.

Although net borrowings had risen by only £1.8m to £34.4m, the ratio of net debt to equity was up from 78 to 100 per cent.

The particular arrangements made to ensure adequate banking facilities were dependent on raising fresh capital.

Chloride expects another difficult year in 1981-82 as there is no sign of any recovery in trade. It also warns shareholders

that its ability to pay the first dividend, on the preference shares, is in doubt.

The group's problems arose through a combination of the strong pound, high interest rates which pushed interest charges up from £12.5m to £14.6m, rising costs and the sharp drop in demand caused by the recession. Turnover fell from £385m to £352m, reflecting a one-tenth volume drop.

The worst problems have been in the United Kingdom, where demand for car batteries fell by 12 per cent and for industrial batteries by a quarter. Chloride's United Kingdom companies swung from a £15m operating profit to a £5m loss and the domestic workforce has been reduced by 1,900—a fall of nearly a fifth.

Chloride also suffered badly in America where it lost £4.4m compared with a £3.6m profit the previous year but the overseas operations fared better and operating profits were only slightly down at £12.2m.

The rights issue has been underwritten by bankers Samuel Montagu and Kleinwort, Benson and Co., well-known for their ability to sell shares to institutions. Samuel Montagu said yesterday that the sub-underwriting had gone satisfactorily.

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Whitehall may cut export services

By Donald Macintyre

Labour Reporters

Confidential proposals for reducing government services to exporting companies by cutting more than 10 per cent of British Overseas Trade Board staff are being studied by senior Whitehall officials.

The board will consider scrapping subsidies, for group overseas export missions, reducing the number of overseas trade fairs and closing the British Export Marketing Centre in Tokyo, among a wide-ranging series of proposals for saving manpower.

Other options, some of which are certain to be strongly resisted by exporters, include ending the present Export Intelligence Service system of matching information on overseas markets to the individual needs of British companies, and an end to advice being provided by Government officials in regional centres.

Ministers privately warned the board in February that the Department of Trade overseas trade divisions would have to be prepared to reduce staff by 150 from 1,041 between April 1982 and April 1984.

A draft paper prepared for the board warns that, while administrative savings are possible, a reduction of the order required "cannot be made without reductions in the services provided". It lists a number of possibilities for cutbacks.

The paper, marked "management in confidence", makes it clear that the order of the listed proposals would be "greatly in excess" of the required savings, but adds that some suggestions "are mutually exclusive and others are likely to prove unacceptable".

The cuts are ordered as part of the overall reduction in Civil Service manpower sought by the Cabinet. Other options include passing to the private sector technical work on overseas exhibitions; reducing the number of overseas visits; visible exports sector; curbing work by international science and technology agreements; and withdrawing support for overseas seminars and symposiums.

The possibility is also envisaged of ending the present product data store, which the paper says is a valuable source of product and industry-based overseas market information and was used on 2,000 occasions by officials during 1980. The paper says that it is becoming increasingly difficult to sustain the Tokyo marketing centre at full capacity. The centre mounted six displays in the last year at a cost of £475,000.

Savings achieved by streamlining administration, the paper says, would cut 50 jobs. But the paper takes a negative view of cuts in the regional advice service, the Export Intelligence Service, and the transfer of technical work on trade fairs, which, if implemented would lose up to 190 jobs in all.

The council of the Institute of Export, which represents exporting companies, may be asked to consider options on the Government's proposed cuts. Mr David Royce, director general, said yesterday that cutbacks would be opposed.

He believes it is right for the Government to channel to exporting companies information advice which they are uniquely able to provide, because of the access of the diplomatic service and missions overseas. It is something which cannot really be replaced by the private sector.



Mr Ali and Mr Riffen at the signing yesterday.

Iraq and Britain sign five-year trade pact

By Rupert Morris

A five-year trade agreement with Iraq, the fastest-growing market for British goods in the Middle East, was signed yesterday in London by Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, and Mr Hassan Ali, the Iraqi Trade Minister.

Iraqi Government sources said trade would not be affected by the war with Iran, and Mr Ali denied that the agreement provided for any British help in rebuilding the nuclear power recently destroyed by Israeli jets.

But the signing of a trade agreement with Iraq so soon after the British Prime Minister's condemnation of the Israeli attack, is bound to be seen as a pro-Arab move by the British Government.

The agreement, which is the result of a year's discussion, provides for the establishment of a joint commission to promote trade contacts, exchange of technical information, and settle any disputes.

British exports this year are expected to be worth about £500m. British companies with stable contracts include John Laing International, with a road scheme for Baghdad (£66m), Patterson Candy International, with a water treatment plant for Baghdad (£54m), and John Brown Engineering, supplying gas turbines (£35m).

Britain has had a long-standing trade deficit with Iraq because of oil imports. Last year the United Kingdom imports totalled £533m against £322m worth of exports. The agreement is expected to provide new export opportunities in agriculture, electric power, medicine, steel, oil, petrochemicals, housing, water and sewerage works and transport and communications.

Business counselling to expand

By Derek Harris

Counselling of small companies, part of the Department of Industry's Small Firms Service, has proved so successful in creating or saving jobs at low cost that it is being expanded. If sufficient businessmen of this calibre are available, the present counselling strength of about 130 could rise to 200 in the new national service operated from 11 regional headquarters.

The striking point about the counselling service is its cost effectiveness, Mr John MacGregor, Permanent Under Secretary of State for Industry, said yesterday. He announced that spending on the Small Firms Service would rise this fiscal year by £1m to a total of £2.8m.

A research study showed that the cost of creating or having jobs through the service was less than £20 per job. This compares with several thousand pounds per job for other forms of job creation.

The survey estimated that the Small Firms Service counselling arm saved or created at least 3,500 jobs in the past financial year.

Of the 100,000 inquiries last year, some 10,000 went for counselling. The first session is free and subsequent ones will cost £15 a session, with ten sessions normally the maximum.

Mr MacGregor believes the counselling service would be better used if its value as a business management advisory service were more fully appreciated. "Its image is not good, because people assume the service is dominated by civil servants," he said. But the survey, by Research Associates, had shown that it was operating extremely effectively.

There were signs that the counselling service was getting overloaded, with a near doubling of cases so far. Group sessions for start-up cases were now being considered to ease the workload. But Mr MacGregor would also like the service, which deals primarily with businesses employing 25 people or less, to start looking at larger concerns.

Duport ends year with £58m loss

By Peter Wainwright

Corporation for £22.5m and it felt obliged to close its electric arc melting plant at Llanelli, which was pay-commissioned in 1979.

Duport has also been forced to close a capital reconstruction scheme, which eventually could give the banks 30 per cent of the capital.

There is no dividend and the directors say that the group will probably not return to profit in this financial year. The decline in engineering has levelled off but the outlook for consumer products remains uncertain.

In addition to the sale or closure of the steel companies, Duport ran into a downturn in business in the metal industry. Losses were suffered by all metal forming companies. Costs have been cut and losses eliminated, says the boundaries. The Grovewood furniture subsidiary is back in profit.

despite a tough market but only the plastics businesses did well.

Duport's steel problems started with last year's British Steel Corporation strike into which the private sector was drawn. It was said to have cost the group £2.4m. After the strike demand slumped to less than half capacity. The strong pound encouraged imports and high energy costs coupled with high prices meant unsustainable losses.

Shorn of its steel activities, Duport is now left with 14 companies whose activities include castings, forging, Slumberland beds, Grovewood Kitchens and Swiss curtain rolls. It also has some valuable industrial land which it may have to sell. Even so, the board says, "it is considered unlikely that payments of dividends on ordinary shares will be resumed before the financial year 1983-84".

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Saudis warn Toyota of Arab ban

By Richard Allen

Tokyo, June 24.—Saudi Arabia has warned Japan's top car maker, Toyota, that Arab countries may stop importing Toyota vehicles if the company forms a joint venture with Ford which does business in Israel, a Toyota official said here today.

He said the warning came during a meeting yesterday in Riyadh between Mr Sulayman Abdul Al-Sulayman, the Saudi Commerce Minister, and Mr Rokusaku Tanaka, the Japanese International Trade and Industry Minister. Ministry officials declined immediate comment.

Japanese reports from the Saudi capital said that Mr Al-Sulayman told Mr Tanaka the Baghdad-based Arab Boycott Committee would recommend a boycott on purchases of Toyota products because the Japanese company was negotiating a joint venture link with Ford, which produces cars in Israel.

The 22-nation Arab League in 1975 decided to boycott the products of any company that does business in Israel.

Toyota last year shipped 256,000 vehicles to the Middle East, including about 128,000 to Saudi Arabia, the second largest importer of Toyota cars after the United States.

The mass-circulation newspaper Asahi said the boycott threat was designed to deter completion of a deal between Toyota and Ford. The two companies have been negotiating for a year on a planned joint production venture for small-size cars in the United States.

Quotas: The Japanese International Trade and Industry Ministry said it had set company quotas for car exports to the United States this year and notified seven manufacturers, including Toyota, Nissan and Honda. No details were given.

But the Japanese daily Yomiuri Shimbun estimates Toyota (563,000 last year), Nissan (372,000), Honda (347,000), Toyota (174,000), Mitsubishi (114,000), Fuji (70,000), and Isuzu (70,000).—AP.

Defence boost for electronics profits

By Richard Allen

Two big defence electronics groups delighted the City yesterday with news of substantial increases in profits last year.

Royal Electronics lifted its pre-tax total from £51.4m to £73.2m in the 12 months to March 31. Over the same period, Ferranti, in which the National Enterprise Board sold its remaining 50 per cent holding yesterday, raised profits from £12.2m to £18.2m. Both groups have benefited substantially from heavy military spending worldwide on electronic equipment.

But a key factor in Royal's profits improvement has been a substantial turnaround at Decca, acquired for £106m early last year after a fierce takeover battle with GEC. Decca's deficit was reduced from £12.2m to £2.4m and a Royal spokesman said yesterday: "You have seen the last of Decca's losses. Both groups were reporting results on the eve of a scheduled Commons statement from Mr John Nott, defence secretary, who is expected to outline proposed spending cuts.

Royal, however, relies on British orders for only 13 per cent of its sales, while Ferranti's main involvement in the multi-coil Tornado combat aircraft project is not expected to be affected. Royal profits improvement has been a substantial turnaround at Decca, acquired for £106m early last year after a fierce takeover

Cooperative agency slimmed down

By Our Commercial Editor

The Cooperative Development Agency (CDA) has been relieved for three years, but will be slimmed down to promote expansion of the cooperative system and advise new cooperatives on getting off the ground.

The Department of Industry, subject to Parliamentary approval, plans to put up another £500,000 in aid on top of the £900,000 which by September will have been spent in the agency's first three years. The department had considered giving no further financial help and protective notices of dismissal went out to CDA staff.

Lord Oram told a CDA board meeting yesterday that he intends to retire as chairman of the agency at the end of August. At least one candidate with some links with cooperatives is being considered by the Department of Industry as replacement chairman, but the CDA board is also putting forward its own candidate.

Collins forecasts £4m profits

By Catherine Gunn

Scottish publishing house William Collins told shareholders yesterday to reject a 200p-a-share bid from News International. It forecast profits of £4m for 1981 against £2.05m in 1980 and dividends 150 per cent higher at 10.7p gross.

With Collins' shares at 233p yesterday, Mr Collins is unlikely to succeed, and it has already said it could be content to remain the largest shareholder. It owns 31 per cent of Collins.

Yesterday Mr J. Chapman, the new chairman, said Collins might consider board representation for NI but the group was determined to remain independent.

Mr Robert Maxwell, of Pergamon Press, owns 9.3 per cent of the publisher. Collins does not expect a rival offer, but Mr John Smith, opposition trade spokesman and Scottish MP, claims Pergamon is seeking more shares and wants the NI bid referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

PRICE CHANGES

Rises					
Arch-Latham	10p to 320p	Royal Elec	3p to 383p	Harrison Cross	12p to 325p
Electric Rentals	8p to 112p	RIT	11p to 368p	Lloyds Bank	5p to 355p
Ferranti	10p to 535p	Sainsbury J	12p to 419p	Midland	7p to 320p
Idm Sumatra	25p to 375p	Thorn EMI	14p to 400p	Miss Bros	5p to 145p
Peko Wallend	15p to 480p	Utd City Merc	3p to 40p	Powell Duffryn	13p to 273p
Falls					
Barclays Bank	7p to 426p				
BP	91p to 312p				
Chloride	7p to 27p				
Hyport	6p to 108p				
Halma	6p to 108p				

Thomas Warrington & sons Ltd

Summary of results to 31 December 1980

- Final dividend increased by 50% making total for the year of 4.7346p per share
- Order book at record level
- Improved liquidity
- The company is in a strong financial position

	1980	1979
Turnover	£9,096,208	£7,736,346
Profit before tax	£333,622	£306,995
Taxation credit	(£226,969)	(£50,613)
Profit after tax	£560,591	£357,608
Final dividend (per share)	3.5709p	2.3806p
Earnings (per share)	18.65p	11.90p
Shareholders funds	£2,134,922	£1,716,653

The Annual General Meeting of the Company was held at Chester on 24 June 1981. Copies of the Report may be obtained from The Secretary.

Thomas Warrington & Sons Ltd
General building and public works contractors
PO Box 26, Rossmore Road East
Ellesmere Port, South Wirral L65 3AJ

HICKING PENTECOST & CO. LIMITED

Preliminary Figures

Results for the year ended 31st March 1981	1981	1980
Sales	11,351	10,528
Exports	2,684	1,640
Group profits before tax and extraordinary item	395	475
Knitted Outerwear	(91)	400
Dyeing and Finishing		
Total of continuing operations	304	875
Warp Knitting Manufacture	—	(131)
	304	744
Group profit after taxation	179	714
Extraordinary item—provision for closure costs of Warp Knitting Manufacture	3	(263)
Earnings per stock unit	7.01p	27.98p
DIVIDENDS		
Interim	2.0p	3.2p
Proposed final	4.0p	5.8p
Total for the year	6.0p	9.0p

Annual General Meeting Thursday 10th September 1981

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Recharging Chloride's balance sheet

Chloride's rights issue to raise £17.3m net may have come as a surprise but there is a good case for taking the plunge early rather than risk the possibility of being pushed at a later date. With trade continuing to worsen during the second half of the year, contrary to the group's earlier hopes, Chloride ended the year with net losses of £22.5m. The impact of this on an already stretched balance sheet was to push net gearing up from 78 to 100 per cent, despite the fact that borrowings were only marginally up.

Furthermore borrowings were contained largely through a £27m reduction in working capital, reflecting the lower volumes and weak lead price and when demand does finally start to recover and with it the lead price, the group's working capital needs are likely to rise sharply. So although Chloride has launched the rights issue on its own initiative, it seems quite probable that without some equity financing its bankers might have begun to get restless given the difficulties of trading out of such a tight corner.

Treating the convertible preference shares as equity leaves net borrowings after the issue back to roughly 70 per cent of shareholders' funds, which still gives Chloride plenty to do and disposals or the sale of minority stakes in overseas operations are the likely course for attacking debt during this year. On the trading front, a first-half loss looks inevitable and the extent of any recovery in prices and demand during the second half will determine the outcome for the year.

Shareholders, then, are faced with a rare puzzle over the convertible preference shares on offer which even come with health warning attached about the first dividend payment. Assuming it is paid—and Chloride will presumably strain every muscle to do so—shareholders are being offered a way into the ordinary at the equivalent of 25p per value but with a yield of 10.7 per cent while the ordinary themselves yield nothing at 27p. Assuming, too, the ordinary stay above par—and this is by no means certain—then the preference stock appears relatively attractive and rather than pouring more money into Chloride there is an argument for switching into the preference. Meanwhile, shareholders who ignore the issue will see their holding diluted by over a third. Given all the uncertainties, not least the trading outlook for Chloride, the underwriters will have to work for their money.

● *Dupont the group which arose from a hospital bed at the end of March after the sale of some steel interests to British Steel Corporation and the closure of others is still a long way from leaving the ward. After last year's net £58m loss after £44m of extraordinary items it is unlikely that the group will return to profits this year. However, the trend is a bit more positive. The steel interests have gone! An underlying recovery is hidden by interest charges in the first three months of the year before the steel interests were sold, and the residual activities should eventually benefit from economic upturn.*

This assumes that all goes well, which in the case of Dupont it has not for years. The balance sheet as at January 31 is not quite the same as the pro forma one given in the Spring with the capital construction. The new one shows short-term borrowings of £13.5m, against shareholders' funds of £12.85m and long-term loans of £14.8m. The position is however coming right now that Dupont is rid of the cost of carrying the assets sold to British Steel, and in receipt of the money from the sale. But hurdles remain. The residual interests of Dupont are cyclical, in fields where surplus capacity makes for keen competition. The shares eased 2p to 11½p after the latest bulletin of dead news.

Electronics

Anxieties allayed

Meanwhile, the collective woes of other sectors of British industry merge to accentuate the explosive growth of major electronics groups and particularly those with strong military connections. Excellent results from both Rascal and Ferranti yesterday cut through all anxiety in the sector about the effects of defence cutbacks due to be outlined in the Commons this afternoon. Rascal's profits up from £51.4m to £73.2m (adjusted for Decca) were in line with expectations, but none the less remarkable.

able for all that. Ferranti beat most outside forecasts with a pretax jump from £11.2m to £18.1m, with the main boost coming from the Scottish division which embraces airborne lasers and radar systems.

The most encouraging aspect of Rascal's figures is the speed with which Decca has been turned round. Losses there have been cut from £12.2m to £2.4m pretax with the deficit more than accounted for by losses of £3m on the consumer electronics division now sold. Rascal seems to have got to grips quickly with Decca's most troublesome area, marine radar, and claims a £6.6m deficit for that division last year will be erased in the current 12 months.

Further loss-elimination and asset disposals including the sale of Decca's former headquarters for £7m would seem to put Rascal on target for £100m this year and provide sufficient cash-flow to discount recurring rights issue rumours unless the group's takeover acquisitions in the United States come to the fore.

With HMG orders accounting for only 13 per cent of sales, Rascal is hardly exposed to domestic defence cutbacks. In Ferranti's case the proportion is more like two-fifths but its heavy involvement in the MRCA-Tornado project is unlikely to be affected. Accelerated deliveries of Tornado, Hornet and the Jaguar retro-fit programmes should help profits move towards £23m in the current year, while Ferranti's lead in uncommitted logic arrays still offers vast potential.

The shares of both groups are now looking a long way ahead, however. Up 9p, at 383p, Rascal sells on a prospective fully taxed p/e of 21, while for Ferranti the p/e is over 20 and the yield in both cases is a mere 1.7 per cent. Both are now in the long-term category, although continued talk of further rationalization in electronics should support Ferranti, approaching the mid-1982 date at which restrictions are removed on the shares placed by the National Enterprise Board.

Pensions

Counting the cost

At first sight, the 1.2 per cent of wage costs which the Occupational Pension Board's recommended increases in preserved pension benefits might cost is not likely to cause British business any serious financial problems. A one per cent increase in United Kingdom wage costs is going to knock less than five per cent off the typical British company's pretax profits: so even if the employer gets the whole of the bill for redressing the injustices which employees suffer at the moment, the financial strain is not too great. All of which explains the bland approbation with which the interested institutions—the actuaries and the pension consultants, the LOA and ASLO—received the report yesterday. Only three happen to be a couple of flies in this soothing ointment.

First there is the fact that the changes to which the projected costs relate are not up to much. An end to "franking" the guaranteed minimum pension (ie, setting off guaranteed increases against other pension entitlements), and an increase in preserved pension benefits by the rate of average earnings up to a ceiling of five per cent per annum, undoubtedly is some improvement, but if inflation continues in double figures those preserved pension benefits still will not be worth much at the end of a decade.

Secondly, the OPB seems to have been petrified of the "knock-on" effect. Companies will hardly be able to refuse to let their pensioners the increases which they have granted to former employees and funding for annual increases in pensions as well as in preserved pension benefits could have a dramatic effect on contributions.

The OPB has fudged rather than faced the issue in the belief that the disagreeable truth—that occupational pensions will have to be cut, or that pension contributions will have to be increased—would scare off those employers who presently offer no occupational scheme. In the short-term, they may have been right. In the longer-run, they have performed no service either to the companies concerned—who ought to know that they are taking on a quantifiable liability—or their employees, who might, given the facts, prefer to surrender the prospect of a comfortable old age for the sake of a certain job today.

ing to development corporation sites.

Traditionally, Warrington has had a 2 or 3 per cent lower unemployment rate than the North-west average. Binsins says. Now it is over 12 per cent, nudging the North-west average of 12.9 per cent, if still only half of that of neighbouring Liverpool.

The unemployment issue is taken up by the Warrington Industrial Training Trust, funded by the Manpower Services Commission. The trust, whose chairman is Lord Leverhulme, began training young unemployed people nearly three years ago and reckons to send less than two-thirds out into a job.

"With the ever-deepening recession," says the WITT annual report, just published, "employment prospects within the locality are pretty bleak and, with almost two thousand young people leaving Warrington schools in the summer of 1981, the need for training places to gain worthwhile experience is vital."

However, it is not all gloom in Warrington, which before Roy Jenkins put it on the map most people outside the North-

We are, the monetary authorities tell us, travelling down an evolutionary road towards an improved system of monetary control—a journey of no little importance, of course, if monetarist policies are to be implemented successfully.

We are to travel steadily but not too fast; we are to observe carefully what we see along the way; and we are to plan all we can from the travellers we meet, particularly those who have travelled similar roads in, for instance, Germany, Switzerland or the United States.

But for the more impatient advocates of monetary base control, this is not enough. The authorities, they believe, lack earnestness of any sense of pilgrimage. Instead, they give the impression of being out on a casual coasting trip.

As far as many monetary base supporters go, the authorities' commitment to effective means of monetary control will remain unproved until they finally demonstrate that they are prepared to give up all attempts to control the price of money. Aspiring to control the price of money, it is argued, is incompatible with simultaneous striving to control its supply.

Whether or not one accepts this purist doctrine, it can certainly be asked what precisely the authorities do have in mind when they talk about a policy involving more market-related and more flexible approach to interest rates.

In theory it should be all very simple. The Bank should allow the market greater influence in the determination of interest rates, then, for its own sake, adopt a more flexible approach in responding to it.

In some ways the authorities have moved far down this road already. Indeed ever since the ending of official support for the gilt-edged market in the early seventies, there has been an acceptance that it is the market that determines long-term interest rates.

Moreover, as the Government has become an ever larger forced seller of debt, so this has become even more irreversible. All that really happened over recent years is that the authorities have progressively adapted their behaviour to this reality, edging towards greater flexibility for top priority and more frequently using the open market for the initial issue of index-linked stock (though whether this is a marketing approach that will be repeated remains to be seen).

Big steps

The attitude towards short-term interest rates has been rather different, however. Until recently, the trend, in fact, was away from the rapidly moving, market-determined short-term lending rate (MLR) of the early seventies to an administered MLR, changing in bigger steps but much less frequently.

Only since last November have we seen a return to a more flexible approach. Rather than lead to the discount houses at MLR to relieve shortages of liquidity, the Bank has moved, almost exclusively, to meeting the ebbs and flows of liquidity in the market by means of daily bill deals. It has, moreover, steadily moved away from a system in which it spoke out set dealing rates, a week in advance.

As a result, Treasury bill and other market rates have been allowed to move freely, using MLR that has generally been the case in the past, though MLR has remained a keystone in the system, both as a sign of the Bank's view as to the appropriate level of interest rates, and as the basis for occasional lending in circumstances the Bank has considered appropriate.

On the face of it then, we have almost reached a stage where MLR rates are the important rates, where these rates essentially reflect market

conditions, and where MLR could, if the authorities so wished, be phased out.

But it is clearly not quite that simple as money market operators know. The fact of the matter is that the Bank is still one side of the market, and the side which, at the end of the day, is still able to call the tune if so wishes.

That the Bank wishes to call the tune to some extent is, of course, clear from the fact that it plans to operate (and may already be operating) on the basis of an unpublished band of short-term interest rates.

It would be surprising if that band were to change all that frequently, or if it were to be particularly broad, for it still seems to be close to the lead of the authorities that there is an important and acceptable trade-off to be had between flexibility and stability (at least under the present institutional framework).

Politicians

One might even wonder if MLR itself will actually be phased out. It is perhaps the politicians who have been keenest on being rid of MLR, on the grounds that frequent upward movements are politically unpopular, while, in the present, frequent movements have, at least on the basis of the way the system has operated in the past, tended to mean a loss of monetary control.

They would, then, to allow the authorities to conduct their policy with greater flexibility but out of the public glare, leaving the banks to carry the interest rate can every time they feel forced to raise base rates.

The Bank itself, however, may be rather less keen to see an end to MLR. Its dilemma is that while it feels that its market policy could be more flexible and more successful without a visible expression of an "official" interest rate, it may also feel that, like other central banks, it is beholden to provide a benchmark rate to provide a confidence and stability particularly among international investors.

One answer, though hardly a satisfactory one, would be to change MLR relatively infrequently but to publish any changes in the surcharge to be paid by borrowers forced to the discount window. Another might be to do away with MLR but to publish daily the prices of all bill dealings and discount window, leading in order to ensure that all who had an interest in financial markets knew how the Bank's interest rate band was operating.

At the end of the day, however, none of this is what the more ardent monetary base advocates really want. For at the moment we seem set to persist with some kind of official view about the appropriate level for short-term interest rates; and that means some sort of peg for short-term rates, but leaving the rest of the yield curve as was like a dog's tail.

Under a monetary base system the dog would, in a sense, be turned round. Long-term rates would not, of course, be pegged but they would be influenced by increased confidence in the authorities' capacity to control the money supply tend to be more stable. The greater volatility would be at the short end of the market, but only over 12 year rates if there were to be a serious attempt to develop a significant market in longer dated Treasury bills.

Even this volatility, it could be argued, would tend to diminish over time (two-five years?) as the system bed itself down and inflation is reduced to lower levels. I doubt, however, that it is this technical perfection that the authorities envisage the end of the evolutionary road. They may be right to see monetary control as an art as well as a science.

John Whitmore

Economic notebook Setting a price for money

Ironfounders' battle for survival

It is ironic that coke, the fuel that helped to fire the industrial revolution, should prove some 250 years on to be a burden on the United Kingdom's remaining 550 ironfoundries.

As foundries close at the rate of one a week amid dwindling demand for their iron castings the price of coke, their main fuel, has been aggravating their difficulties.

The Council for Ironfoundry Associations (CIFA), to which half the foundry companies belong, has repeatedly pressed the Government to increase the subsidies on coke in order to bring United Kingdom supply prices in line with those paid by European competitors, whose governments give more help with fuel costs.

The industry is now awaiting an announcement from the Government, following the recent agreement to raise National Coal Board cash limits, of some form of fresh subsidy for coke. This could come within the next two weeks, but no one expects that any concessions that are made will be anything other than modest.

Against a background of price increases for other fuels used in industry and little sign up until now of the recession lifting, the foundries have had a hard time pleading their case for special consideration.

Meanwhile, their plight has been worsening. The number of foundries left is little more than a third of the number which existed at the beginning of the sixties. Production in 1980 dropped to 1,819,400 tonnes, the lowest figure since the war. In 1979 it was 2,677,100 tonnes.

The ironfoundries have to pay about £103 per tonne for National Coal Board coke. It is subsidised to some extent by the Government, but British coke prices are still estimated to be about 30 per cent higher on average than European equivalents, and as much as 50 per cent dearer than in France, according to the National Economic Development Council's Energy Task Force, which emphasised the coke problem in a report earlier this month.

The hard-pressed industry's difficulties go back at least two decades. Closures in the sixties and early seventies were due partly to the growing use of other materials, such as plastics to replace iron castings and partly a result of over-enthusiastic price-cutting by managers hoping to win orders.

The coke problem arose with the United Kingdom's entry into the European Community in 1973. This brought the industry closer to European rivals and highlighted discrepancies such as government fuel

subsidies, while lifting the protective shield of trade barriers.

About a third of foundry castings go to the motor industry and the dwindling of United Kingdom car production has meant declining orders for iron parts. Even the comparatively successful commercial vehicle sector has not been able to offset the lost orders.

Other manufacturing industries, likewise, faced with decline, have not offered much comfort to the foundries either. Also, many of the United Kingdom's producers of iron castings are small companies, more vulnerable, in hard economic times, than larger enterprises.

“The number of foundries left is little more than a third of the total at the beginning of the sixties”

There have been ambitious plans over the years to help the foundries. In 1975 the then Chancellor, Mr Denis Healey, launched an aid programme for modernisation of the foundries in order to boost efficiency, which was expected to draw applications for an estimated £80m worth of aid. This help was offered under Section 8 of the 1972 Industry Act.

The modernisation effort was born out of the economic boom of 1974, when the foundries could not produce enough castings for the manufacturing industries, their numbers depleted by the mistakes and changes of the 1960s.

But by the end of the 1970s it was becoming clear that the foundries again had surplus capacity, as other industries—including their biggest single customer, the motor trade—cut back.

Since the start of the aid scheme the Government has given the foundries £46.1m but this is little more than half the total funds the foundries were expected to receive under it.

In recent months most of the industry's workforce of 70,000 has been on short time. Even the United Kingdom foundry operations, has shut five foundries at its Birmingham Smithwick works in the past two years, with the loss of 3,000 jobs.

As more and more United Kingdom foundries close, the customer industries are turn-

ing to imported castings, notably from the Far East—Taiwan, Korea and India—as well as from European rivals of the United Kingdom firms.

The dwindling industry has been unable to make use of the aid held out to it in happier times.

There is no chance, according to Mr Derek Farrant, the director of CIFA, of the rest of the £80m which was earmarked for the iron foundries being diverted to help cover coke costs. “That is a non-starter”, he says. “The Government gave us a flat ‘no’.”

Technically, they have a point, because unspent other industries would be asking for the same to be done for them. But he believes that the Government has been inflexible.

There is one bright spot in the present gloom. Iron castings are a major export item for some of the foundries pin their hopes of survival on foreign orders. According to the CIFA, some have been able to survive only thanks to the export market.

Export figures for 1980 were 134,000 tonnes, bringing in £72,832,000, and exports 50,620 tonnes, costing £20,370,000. “This is clearly one of our strengths,” Mr Farrant says. “We could do something for ourselves but the export potential is something we have emphasised to the Government.”

The council is planning a series of trade missions to boost the industry's exports, but is chary as yet of revealing which of the main target countries will be.

Even so, having learnt to be cautious in view of the industry's experience over the past twenty years, the CIFA soberly estimates that the number of indirect imports of iron castings, contained in finished products such as foreign cars and thus not listed, probably outweighs the apparent export surplus.

But the council's determination to defend its members' interests has also been hardened by long years of disappointment and the expectation of economic booms which did not happen.

The next target is likely to be any Japanese involvement in the production of cars in the United Kingdom. “We would certainly take the view that the Government should insist that Nissan, for example, have an intake of a minimum of 85 per cent local content,” Mr Farrant says.

The last thing he wants to see is the Japanese companies importing their own castings, when the United Kingdom foundries need all the custom they can get.

Anne Warden

NOTICE OF ISSUE
Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the undenominated Stock to be admitted to the Official List.

ABRIDGED PARTICULARS

The Mid Kent Water Company
(Incorporated in England on the 29th August, 1966, by the Mid Kent Water Act, 1966)

**OFFER FOR SALE BY TENDER OF
£3,000,000**

9 per cent. Redeemable Preference Stock, 1987
(which will mature for redemption at par on 27th February, 1987)

Minimum Price of Issue 97p per £100 Stock
Yielding at this price, together with the associated tax credit at the current rate, £13.25 per cent.

This Stock is an investment authorised by Section 1 of the Trustee Investments Act, 1961 and by paragraph 10 of Part II of the First Schedule thereto. Under that paragraph, the required rate of dividend on the Ordinary Capital of the Company was 4 per cent. but, by the Trustee Investments (Water Companies) Order 1973 such rate was reduced to 2.5 per cent. In relation to dividends paid during any year after 1972.

The preferential dividends on this stock will be at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum and no tax will be deducted therefrom. Under the imputation tax system the associated tax credit at the current rate of Advance Corporation Tax (37½% of the distribution) is equal to a rate of 3.67½ per cent. per annum.

A deposit of 210p per £100 nominal amount of Stock applied for must accompany each Tender, which must be sent to DeLoitte Haskins & Sells, New Issues Department, P.O. Box 207, 125, Queen Victoria Street, London EC4P 4UX in a sealed envelope marked "Tender for Mid Kent Water Stock" so as to be received not later than 11 a.m. on Wednesday, 1st July, 1981. The balance of the purchase money will be payable on or before Tuesday, 28th July, 1981.

Copies of the Prospectus, on the terms of which alone Tenders will be considered, and Forms of Tender may be obtained from—

Baynards, Place & Co.,
10, Old Jewry, London EC2R 8EA.
National Westminster Bank Limited,
3, High Street, Maitland, Kent ME14 1XU and
11, The Parade, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2SQ.
or from the Offices of the Company at High Street, Snodland, Kent ME8 5AH.

Powell Duffryn

Group results for the year ended 31st March 1981

	1981 £'000	1980 £'000
Turnover.....	456,238	440,951
Trading profit.....	18,834	19,732
Profit before taxation.....	14,005	15,884
Profit after taxation.....	11,517	12,428
Profit attributable to ordinary shareholders.....	10,655	8,767
Earnings per share.....	36.8p	39.9p
Dividends per share.....	14.25p	13.25p

Powell Duffryn is an industrial holding company with subsidiaries engaged in engineering, distribution and transportation, principally related to the energy shipping and construction industries.

Ross Davies

Wallchart

SUMMER'S HERE AGAIN! ISN'T IT AMAZING HOW TIME FLIES!

IT CERTAINLY DOESN'T SEEM A YEAR...

SINCE WE ALL SLEPT IN THE DEPARTURE LOUNGES AT HEATHROW...

by David Jones, editor, *The Bankers' Magazine*



UNION BANK OF FINLAND

HELSINKI **MOSCOW**
GENEVE **LONDON**
TOKYO **LUXEMBOURG**
NEW YORK **SAO PAULO**
SINGAPORE **HONG KONG**
BAHRAIN

It pays to do business with Finland's leading international bank.*

In an increasingly international world, you need a bank with an international approach. In Finland that's Union Bank of Finland. In recent years its international operations have expanded strongly. It was the first Finnish bank to open a wholly-owned subsidiary abroad - Union Bank of Finland - International S.A. in Luxembourg - and the first in South-East Asia - Union Bank of Finland (Singapore) Ltd. These international subsidiaries enjoy the backing of the parent bank's extensive resources and offer you the same specialist know-how and fast, flexible service.

Union Bank of Finland is also represented through representative offices in Luxembourg for the Federal Republic of Germany and the Benelux countries, in Moscow, Sao Paulo and Tokyo and through affiliated banks in London, Geneva, New York, Bahrain and Hong Kong, ensuring expert access to the Finnish market wherever you are.

*Consolidated total assets per 31.12.1980 USD 7.4 billion.

UNION BANK OF FINLAND

Finland's Leading International Bank

HEAD OFFICE Aleksanterinkatu 30, P.O.Box 868, 00101 HELSINKI 10, Telephone: + 358 01651, Telex: 124407 unit sf (general), 124525 unex sf (foreign exchange), 122161 unep sf (eurobonds)

UNION BANK OF FINLAND INTERNATIONAL S.A. Forum Royal, P.O.Box 569, LUXEMBOURG 11, Telephone: + 352 28953, Telex: 1575 ubfin lu (general), 1576 ubfex lu (foreign exchange)

UNION BANK OF FINLAND (SINGAPORE) LTD 3401 OCBC Centre,

This advertisement has been issued by British Sugar Corporation Limited

**WE BACK THE
INDEPENDENCE OF THE MANAGEMENT.
THEY DON'T NEED BERISFORD,
AND WE'RE HAPPY TO BACK THEM.
THE PRICE IS NOT
ATTRACTIVE, ANYWAY.**

**WE'VE CERTAINLY
TAKEN THE VIEW NOT TO
ACCEPT THE OFFER.
BSC ARE DOING
WELL AS THEY ARE.**

**WE'RE NOT
ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT
BERISFORD'S BID, AND
WILL NOT BE TAKING
ANY ACTION.**

If you want the realistic view, ask the professional investor.

The three comments quoted above were all made recently by senior investment managers at major British insurance companies.

And - since these gentlemen are by definition concerned with the long-term performance of their policyholders' funds - they should make any British Sugar shareholder pretty sceptical about the claim (by Berisford) that accepting the Berisford offer is in his long-term interest.

The fact remains that British Sugar

doesn't need Berisford. British Sugar is an industrial success story with good prospects ahead. The last thing it needs is to be taken over by a management with no relevant industrial experience.

That's why British Sugar employees, from Boardroom to shop floor, are united against the bid.

And that's why we ask you to continue to reject the bid; or, if you've accepted it already, to join the others in revoking your acceptance.
REJECT THE BID



BRITISH SUGAR
CORPORATION LIMITED
THE RECORD SPEAKS FOR ITSELF

The Bank of England took surplus funds out of the system yesterday. Houses opened the bidding for secured money at 10 per cent but had to lift their bids to 16 per cent. In the afternoon, rates fell to 5 per cent at one stage and books were finally ruled off anywhere between 5 per cent and 10 per cent.

reflecting a stronger dollar, sterling was depressed by a stable

Wall Street

[illegible]

Other

Markets

the	1.715-1.7265
.70c disc	0.7460-0.7490
.80c disc	0.7710-0.7475
.90c disc	1.1155-1.1585
1970re disc	10.5500-10.5600
rem-par	Nt available
or disc	6.9250-6.926
.90c disc	4.573-4.603
.80c disc	47.75-49.75
or disc	2.222-2.213
.90c disc	4.7440-4.774
.80c disc	4.744-4.753
.90c prem	2.120-1.7280
rem-par	
prem.	

Indices

Bank of England			Morgan Guaranty	
	Index	Change	Index	Change
Sterling	95.8	+0.3		
US dollar	107.0	+1.7		
Canadian dollar	87.7	+17.2		
Deutsche mark	131.6	+0.6		
Belgian franc	105.5	+0.3		
Danish kroner	94.2	+11.6		
Swedish krona	107.0	+0.3		
Swiss franc	137.9	+0.3		
Quilinder	106.6	+14.4		
French franc	82.6	+12.4		
Italian lire	77.3	+0.3		
Yen	143.8	+07.9		

Based on trade weighted changes from Washington agreement December, 1971.
(Bank of England Index 100).

Money Market Rates

Bank of England 30L 12%
(Last changed 14/2/61)
Clearing Banks Base Rate 12%
Discount 3M Loans 4%
Overnight: High 1% Low 0
Week Fixed: 11-11

Treasury Bills (Dis%)

Buying	2 months 12%	Selling	2 months 11%
3 months 11 3/4%		3 months 11 1/2%	

Prime Bank Bills (Dis%) Trades (Dis%)

2 months 11 3/4-11 3/2%	3 months 12%
3 months 11 1/2-11 3/4%	4 months 12%

4 months	12-11%	6 months	13%
6 months	12-11%		

Local Authority Bonds			
1 month	13-12 1/2	7 months	13 1/2-13
3 months	13 1/2-13	8 months	13 1/2-13
6 months	13 1/2-13	9 months	13 1/2-13 1/4
4 months	13 1/2-13	10 months	13 1/2-13 1/4
5 months	13 1/2-13	11 months	13 1/2-13 1/4
6 months	13 1/2-13	12 months	13 1/2-13 1/4
Secondary Mkt. LCD Rates (%)			
1 month	11 1/2-11 3/4	6 months	12 1/2-12 3/4
3 months	12 1/2-12 3/4	12 months	13-12 3/4
Local Authority Market (%)			
2 days	11 1/2	3 months	12 1/2
7 days	11 3/4	6 months	12 3/4
1 month	11 1/4	1 year	12 1/4

Gold

Interbank Market (%)			
Overnight:	Open 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ -10 $\frac{3}{4}$	Close 8	
1 week	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -11	6 months	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -12 $\frac{1}{4}$
1 month	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -11 $\frac{1}{4}$	9 months	13-12 $\frac{3}{4}$
3 months	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -12 $\frac{1}{4}$	12 months	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ -12 $\frac{3}{4}$

First Class Finance Houses (Mkt. Rate %)	
3 months	13
6 months	13 $\frac{1}{2}$

Finance House Base Rate 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	
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Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Fund

1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
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ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began June 15. Dealings End, June 26. § Contango Day, June 29. Settlement Day, July 6
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

	Gross	
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Low Stock				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price Change				Div Yld				Price 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Law Report Divisional Court

What constitutes laying an information before justices

Regina v Leeds Justices ex parte Hanson
Regina v Manchester Stipendiary Magistrate ex parte Hill
Regina v Edmonstone Justices ex parte Hughes
Regina v Gateshead Justices ex parte Ives
Regina v Dartford Justices ex parte Dhesi
Moody v Anderton
Before Lord Justice Griffiths and Mr Justice Woolf
 (Judgment delivered June 22)

The Divisional Court clarified what constituted laying an information when it considered together six appeals from different parts of the country.

Their Lordships held: (1) An information was laid when its contents were brought to the attention of a magistrate or clerk to the justices as a part of the prosecution process.

(2) The laying of the information did not necessarily involve the consideration of the issue of a summons or warrant.

(3) Informations were laid before the justices when they adjourned proceedings within the time limit for laying an information, and had before them the case papers, together giving particulars of the offence and the identity of the informant.

Mr David C. Mitchell for Mr Hanson, Mr John C. Gifford for Mr Hill, Mr Michael Kerahaw, QC and Mr Roger Stout for Mr Hill, Mr Nicholas Edmonstone for Mr Hughes, Mr Adrian Salter for Mr Ives, the respondents were not represented; Mr Michael J. Hodson for Mr Ives, the respondents were not represented; Mr Richard Collins for Mr Dhesi, Mr Richard Atkins for the justices in Gateshead, Mr Reid for Mr Moody; Mr John L. Simmons for the prosecutor, Mr Simon D. Brown for the justices.

LORD JUSTICE GRIFFITHS, reading the reasons for judgment of the court, said that these cases came before the court as a result of the recent decision in *R v. Connelley* (1980) 1 All E.R. 1009, 1010, 1011, 1012, 1013, 1014, 1015, 1016, 1017, 1018, 1019, 1020, 1021, 1022, 1023, 1024, 1025, 1026, 1027, 1028, 1029, 1030, 1031, 1032, 1033, 1034, 1035, 1036, 1037, 1038, 1039, 1040, 1041, 1042, 1043, 1044, 1045, 1046, 1047, 1048, 1049, 1050, 1051, 1052, 1053, 1054, 1055, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1059, 1060, 1061, 1062, 1063, 1064, 1065, 1066, 1067, 1068, 1069, 1070, 1071, 1072, 1073, 1074, 1075, 1076, 1077, 1078, 1079, 1080, 1081, 1082, 1083, 1084, 1085, 1086, 1087, 1088, 1089, 1090, 1091, 1092, 1093, 1094, 1095, 1096, 1097, 1098, 1099, 1100, 1101, 1102, 1103, 1104, 1105, 1106, 1107, 1108, 1109, 1110, 1111, 1112, 1113, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1117, 1118, 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122, 1123, 1124, 1125, 1126, 1127, 1128, 1129, 1130, 1131, 1132, 1133, 1134, 1135, 1136, 1137, 1138, 1139, 1140, 1141, 1142, 1143, 1144, 1145, 1146, 1147, 1148, 1149, 1150, 1151, 1152, 1153, 1154, 1155, 1156, 1157, 1158, 1159, 1160, 1161, 1162, 1163, 1164, 1165, 1166, 1167, 1168, 1169, 1170, 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